SUNDAY
December 25, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

www.thehindu.com
FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu
Vol.53 • No.52

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

We can't make every Student the Best in the Country

But we can unravel 100% potential of each student, thus bringing out the best in them !

Complex process of
cleansing, chiselling & polishing
Metamorphoses
each diamond individually to
unlock its full value

Much in the same way children, just like rough diamonds with lots of hidden untapped potential, also need to go through a complex process involving Learning, Problem Solving, Mind Tuning, Mentoring, & Grooming to unravel their true potential. The evidence of transformation in our students is apparent. It is in our culture to create this metamorphosis. **FIITJEE's Academic Cult Metamorphosis** channelises Students' energies to make them think deeper & right, makes their preparation simpler, straightforward, and free from tension & stress. In the process they unravel their deepest potential & get the best possible outcome. FIITJEE trains students in an age-appropriate learning process.

Students going to Class VI to X

Course taught in each of Class VI to X is common & same for all students of that Class, irrespective of the stream (Arts, Commerce, Humanities, PCM, PCB, PCMB) they may opt for while moving to Class XI. Therefore, every student going to Class VI to X will immensely benefit from FIITJEE's Academic Cult Metamorphosis. FIITJEE's Academic Cult Metamorphosis will not only empower them to perform much better academically but also empower them with much enhanced Mental Ability including Analytical Skills, which are extremely vital for success in any career & life itself.

So, whether you may aim at pursuing higher studies in Arts (CUET), Commerce (CUET), Engineering (JEE Main, JEE Advanced, BITSAT, WBJEE, TANCET, EAMCET, KCET, MHTCET...), Humanities (CUET), Medicine (NEET) or in pure Sciences P,C,M/B at IISc / IISER or at other institutes (CUET), you need a solid foundation that is built by unravelling your 100% hidden potential.

Needless to say, you will also be optimally prepared for NTSE, Junior Olympiads and at least for the IOQM. No matter what your current academic performance is, a FIITJEE program can help you undergo a metamorphosis.

Students going to Class XI or XII

If preparing for engineering entrance exams is your goal, then look no further. FIITJEE is the only choice.

You will inherit the pedigree of 26 years of unmatched, consistent dominance in results in all engineering entrance exams including IIT-JEE / JEE Advanced, AIEEE / JEE Main, BITSAT, WBJEE, TANCET, EAMCET, KCET, MHTCET.... Best way to ace Engineering Entrance Exams is to join a FIITJEE Program at least from Class IX onwards. Most of the JEE Advanced toppers start their preparation with FIITJEE from class VI to IX itself.

If you wish to pursue higher studies in pure Sciences with PCM subject domain through CUET, the FIITJEE advantage is still crucial not just to ace the CUET but to have that strong foundation that will lead to excellence in further studies. Our programs will simultaneously help you score high in XII Boards as well as Advanced Placement (AP) exams crucial for admission to world's best colleges in USA, UK & Canada.

Mark the Date

Sunday, 29th January 2023

A day for

Scholarship Cum
ADMISSION TEST
For Students presently in **Class V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X & XI**
(soon going to Class VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI & XII)

Jump-start your preparation for
JEE Main, JEE Advanced, Boards, Olympiads & NTSE
with the Best Coach

Last Date to Register : 27th January 2023 | Registration Fee : Rs. 500/- (inclusive of GST),
For Offline Registration, collect the Paper Registration Form from your nearest FIITJEE Centre,
For Online Registration log on to **http://admissiontest.fiitjee.com**

FORTUNATE 40
For Students presently in **Class VIII & X**
(Aspirants of JEE Main & Advanced 2027 & 2025 respectively)

A Social Initiative to
provide world-class training by
FIITJEE to help the Economically Deprived

Last Date to Register : 27th January 2023 | Registration Fee : Rs. 50/- (inclusive of GST),
For Offline Registration, collect the Paper Registration Form from your nearest FIITJEE Centre,
For Online Registration log on to **www.fiitjee.com/f40.htm**

IITGenius
For Students presently in **Class VIII, IX, X, XI & XII**
(Aspiring for JEE Main & Advanced 2027, 2026, 2025, 2024 & 2023 respectively)

Unleash the Academic Genius in you & Seize the
Opportunity of a Lifetime. Get set to **Study Free of**
Cost at IITs even without joining FIITJEE

Last Date to Register : 27th January 2023 | Registration Fee : Rs. 100/- (inclusive of GST),
For Students presently enrolled in any FIITJEE Program : NIL | For Offline Registration, collect the Paper Registration Form from your nearest FIITJEE Centre, For Online Registration log on to **www.iitgenius.com**

All these tests will be conducted through both offline as well as proctored online mode

Wish to enrol immediately ? – **Appear anytime in Online Insta Selection Test - for students presently in Class V, VI, VII,VIII, IX, X & XI** **www.admissiontest.fiitjee.com/instaselect**
Students enrolling through Insta Selection Test can still appear for Future Scholarship cum Admission Tests to avail scholarship & other academic benefits.

Classroom / Integrated School Programs available for Students going to Class VI to XII. To see the class wise & program wise goals, visit **www.fiitjee.com/programgoals** or scan this **QR Code**

Education with Values...

FIITJEE
30 YEARS OF INNOVATION, SINCERITY, ETHICS, CONSISTENCY & HARD WORK

Please turn over...

The Premier Institute for JEE Main, JEE Advanced, Boards, various Olympiads & NTSE

SUNDAY
December 25, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

www.thehindu.com
FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu
Vol.53 • No.52

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

ROOTING OUT

Poppy war in Manipur

Chief Minister Biren Singh issues 'last warning' to village chieftains

NEWS » PAGE 10

Bharat Jodo Yatra enters Delhi after covering 9 States

NEWS » PAGE 9

Patriot — America's missile defence umbrella for Ukraine

PROFILES » PAGE 14

Litton, Mehidy shine to leave India in a spot of bother

SPORT » PAGE 16

Negative RT-PCR report must for travellers from China, 3 other countries

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With COVID-19 cases rising in some countries, the government on Saturday said passengers from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand and South Korea will have to bring a negative RT-PCR test report when they travel to India.

Filling up of Air Suvidha forms for declaring COVID-19 status will also be made mandatory for these passengers, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said. Those who are symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19 upon arrival in India would be put under quarantine, he said.

Random testing of 2% of passengers on every international flight also started from Saturday morning.

Masks are back: Travellers arriving at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

Mock drills

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has also written to the States and the Union Territories to conduct mock drills at all health facilities across the country on December 27 to ensure operational readiness to tackle COVID-19.

The focus of the drill will be to ensure adequate beds, including oxygen-supported beds and ventilator-supported beds, availability of doctors, nurses, paramedics, ASHA and anganwadi workers, as well as preparedness of testing laboratories.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Purse seines come with a divisive catch

Traditional fishermen point a finger at boats that use large vertical nets for the rapidly declining catch in the last 10 years, especially of sardines in Kerala

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

An ongoing case in the Supreme Court, to decide whether the ban that several States have imposed on purse seine fishing is justified or not, has revealed the fault lines between small, marginal and large fishers, with the Centre and States also taking different sides on the issue.

Purse seine fishing, popular on India's western coasts, uses a large vertical net to surround dense shoals of pelagic or midwater fish in the open ocean, and then draws in the edges like tightening the cords of a drawstring purse. In some States, it is linked to concerns about the decreasing stock of small, pelagic shoaling fish such as sardines, mackerel, anchovies and trevally on the western coasts.

The scientific community argues that climatic conditions, including the El Nino phenomenon, are responsible for the declining catch of such fish in the last 10 years. However, fishermen using traditional methods have placed the blame squarely on the rise in purse seine fishing, and fear a further fall in the availability of these small fish if the ban is lifted. They have also demanded that, as the Centre has supported the lifting of the ban, it publish the expert committee report it has based its stance on.

Purse seine fishing off Mangaluru. FILE PHOTO

A major concern is the dwindling availability of oil sardines, a favourite of Kerala fish eaters. In 2021, Kerala recorded a catch of just 3,297 tonne of sardines, a sharp decrease from the 3.9 lakh tonne in 2012. While traditional fish workers blame purse seines for this decrease, those using big boats with purse seines claim that it is simply a more scientific way to catch fish.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

NEARBY

Kempanna, four others arrested

BENGALURU
High drama prevailed on Saturday night as five office-bearers of the Karnataka State Contractor's Association were arrested by the Vyalikaval police. They were granted bail around midnight. » Page 3

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 2 & 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

4 electric incentives on an Ather, only for this month!

- Complimentary 2 year extension on battery warranty worth ₹7000*
- EMI as low as ₹2975/month
- Rewards worth ₹1500* for eligible customers of HDFC Bank and IDFC FIRST Bank
- Exchange bonus of up to ₹4000*
- Free fast-charging for a year

Test ride an Ather today.

Book your Ather on www.atherenergy.com | Email us for bulk corporate booking: corporate.sales@atherenergy.com
Ather Space Experience Center, Indiranagar: 98273 00900 | JP Nagar 78297 70055 | Rajajinagar: 78293 30022
Electronic City: 84960 00081 | Marathahalli: 70260 14000 | Mahadevpura: 7026073000

Product shown is for representational purposes only. Actual colour, feature & specifications may vary.
Ather trademark is owned by Ather Energy Pvt. Ltd.
Beware of fake websites. The only official website of Ather Energy is - www.atherenergy.com
*T&C apply. Ather Battery Protect & Exchange Bonus offers cannot be availed together, in one transaction.

ATHER

Sabse Pehle Life Insurance

Also Available Online

Invest once, enjoy guaranteed maturity with life cover

LIC's DHAN VARSHA

Plan No.: 866 UIN: 512N349V01

A Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Savings, Life Insurance Plan

A SINGLE PREMIUM PLAN

Take one step towards your family's security & prosperity

Option to choose Policy Term (10 years /15 years)

Guaranteed Additions* upto ₹ 75/- per Thousand

Options to choose the Sum Assured (1.25 times or 10 times of Tabular Premium)

*Guaranteed Additions shall vary as per the chosen option, policy term and basic sum assured

Download LIC Mobile App 'LIC Customer' | Visit: licindia.in | Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch/visit www.licindia.in or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

Follow us : LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

LIC भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

LIC / P1 / 2022 - 23 / 14 / Eng

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

Black beauty: The Fateh Rahbar (guide to victory) atop Petla Burj, northwest of the Golconda Fort. The cannon was used by Aurangazeb's Army to in the siege of Golconda in 1687.

Booming no more

The cannons of Hyderabad, sentinels of an era when their mere presence spoke of might and power, now lie in neglect

Nagara Gopal
nagara.gopal@thehindu.co.in

Some cities in India straddle centuries in how they showcase themselves. One such urban hub is Hyderabad, which still has many of its architecture and traditional bazaars of yore intact.

But among the elements fading in significance are the cannons in the city. These heavy guns underscore a strong military past by just being around. They are just about everywhere: in museums, atop historic monuments, and even by the roadside, all of them sentinels of an era when their mere presence meant power and might. Today, some of them lie next to mounds of garbage, like the one at Aliabad.

Many of the cannons are linked to the who's who of Indian history.

A cannon named "Fateh Rahbar", weighing 16.5 tonnes and measuring 4.8 metres in length, was used by Aurangazeb during the siege of Golconda in 1687. It now languishes in neglect in the ruins of the Golconda Fort. Gen. Michel Joachim Marie Raymond, a French man and a General in the Nizam of Hyderabad's military, started the Gunfoundry (in the heart of Hyderabad) in 1786 to manufacture cannons and cannonballs made of wootz, a special steel alloy known to Indians, to make the kingdom powerful. Today, scores of cannons lie vandalised and uncared-for in and around Hyderabad, due to lack of funds.

The names of some of the cannons were supposed to instil fear: the "Azdaha Paikar" (dragon shape), "Atish Baar" (flame thrower), "Dushman Khob" (enemy destroyer) and Quila Kusha (fort opener).

The mightiest of them all, the "Fateh Rahbar" (guide to victory), was used by Aurangazeb's Army to capture the defiant and brave Qutab Shahi ruler Abul Hasan Tana Shah.

That was then. Today, as another year passes by, the clock is ticking for many of the cannons lying at the mercy of the elements.

Tidbits of history: A young visitor to the State Archaeology Museum listens to information about an iron cannon mounted on wheels from the 19th century.

Mighty weapon: A wide-mouthed bronze cannon of 1782 that was used for short-range combat, on display at the State Archaeology Museum.

Competing for space: Apartments surround the remnants of the chimney of a foundry that manufactured cannons.

Tales of yore: A view of the ruins of the Gunfoundry started by the Nizam's General, Michel Jaochim Marie Raymond.

FIITJEE is the only Institute to capture

All India Ranks 1, 2 & 3

in JEE Advanced / IIT-JEE from Classroom Programs

Twice in history

No other institute in India has ever achieved this feat even once !

JEE Advanced 2021

All India Rank 1

Mridul Agarwal
Student of Intensive Contact Program (XII)

All India Rank 2

Dhananjay Raman
Student of UDAYA - Two Year (VII - VIII) + Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII)

All India Rank 3

Anant Lunia
Student of Three Year Classroom Program (X - XII)

IIT-JEE 2012

All India Rank 1

Arpit Agrawal
Student of Two Year Classroom Program (Class XI & XII) + ASCENT - One Year Classroom Program (Class X)

All India Rank 2

Bijoy Singh Kochar
Student of PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (Class XI & XII) + ASCENT - Two Year Classroom Program (Class IX & X)

All India Rank 3

Nishanth N Koushik
Student of PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (Class XI & XII)

- ✓ FIITJEE has produced the highest number of selections from Classroom Programs in IIT-JEE (JEE Advanced) in India consistently for the last 26 years - right since 1997 !
- ✓ And not just IIT-JEE (JEE Advanced), we have been consistently producing toppers and leading results in JEE Main, Boards, KVPY, NTSE, Junior & Senior Olympiads !
- ✓ Securing All India Rank - 1 & highest number of Ranks in Top 3 / 5 / 10 / 50 / 100 AIR in IIT-JEE (JEE Advanced) & other exams has been a habit for the FIITJEE students !

Results are from Common Merit List only.

Programs for JEE Main & Advanced 2023 aspirants

to significantly improve their Rank

Classroom Programs for JEE Main & Advanced 2023

Class	Program	Scholarship Cum Admission Test Dates	Fee* & Batch Commencement Dates
XII Pass	Intensive Contact Program± for JEE Main & Advanced 2023 (138 Hrs)	15th & 22nd January 2023	Rs. 29,500/- | 7th February 2023
XII Appearing / Pass	Intensive Contact Program for JEE Advanced 2023 (100 Hrs)	19th & 26th March, 2nd & 9th April 2023	Rs. 17,600/- | 18th April 2023
	Super Condensed Classroom Program for JEE Advanced 2023 (54 Hrs)	23rd & 30th April 2023	Rs. 5,400/- | 9th May 2023

Enrolment in Intensive Contact Program & Super Condensed Classroom Program is through an Admission Test.

± Intensive Contact Program, starting in February 2023 will have not only more number of teaching hours but also have more number of AITS Tests.

Intensive Contact Program & Super Condensed Classroom Program include the iconic Computer Based All India Test Series

Register at **http://admissiontest.fiitjee.com**

Test Series Program for JEE Main & Advanced 2023

Program		Number of Tests	Last Date to Enrol & Fee*
Computer Based All India Test Series for JEE Main & Advanced 2023 Multidimensional Analysis of Performance followed by Live Online Concept Strengthening Sessions by FIITJEE Delhi Centres + myPAT Online Concept-wise Tests and Test Series (each Test will give you detailed Analysis Chart & Rank Potential Index)	From Full Test - II	14 Main Tests + 14 Advanced Tests + 14 Concept Strengthening Sessions	6th January 2023 | Rs. 15,000/-
	From Open Test - I (Advanced)	7 Main Tests + 14 Advanced Tests + 11 Concept Strengthening Sessions	4th February 2023 | Rs. 12,500/-
	From Full Test VII (Main)	7 Main Tests + 10 Advanced Tests + 10 Concept Strengthening Sessions	21st March 2023 | Rs. 10,900/-
	From Open Test II (Advanced)	10 Advanced Tests + 6 Concept Strengthening Sessions	15th April 2023 | Rs. 4,800/-
	From Full Test VIII (Advanced)	4 Advanced Tests + 4 Concept Strengthening Sessions	6th May 2023 | Rs. 2,900/-

All Tests of All India Test Series are conducted at fixed timings as per the actual JEE Main & JEE Advanced timings in the simulated JEE Main & JEE Advanced like environment at CBT Centres all over India. Students, however, have the option of taking this test from home or personal computer.

Crash Correspondence Program for JEE Advanced 2023

Program	Fee*
Grand Masters Package for JEE Advanced 2023 Fortified with myPAT - Online Test Series for JEE Advanced 2023	Rs. 4,500/-

*(including GST)

Scholarships are available based on achievements in NTSE, Olympiads, KVPY and JEE Main (NTA Score) & JEE Advanced (Rank in previous attempt). Please visit, **https://fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/aits-scholarship**

For **complete AITS Schedule,** visit www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/aits1-2023schedule or to **Enrol Online**, visit www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/enrol

For more info, please visit **www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/gmp.htm**

myPAT - Online Test Series (Accessible 24/7) for JEE Main & Advanced 2023 | Enrol at www.mypat.in | Sign up for a 14 day Free Trial now !

Program	Fee*	Test Details	Total Tests	Last Date to Enrol
Test Series for JEE Main	Rs. 1,500/-	5 Part Tests + 2 Half Course Tests + 10 Full Tests	17	4th February 2023
	Rs. 500/-	6 Full Tests	6	21st March 2023
Test Series JEE Advanced	Rs. 3,000/-	5 Part Tests + 2 Half Course Tests + 10 Full Tests	17	4th February 2023
	Rs. 2,200/-	2 Half Course Tests + 10 Full Tests	12	21st March 2023
	Rs. 1,700/-	10 Full Tests	10	15th April 2023
	Rs. 900/-	6 Full Tests	6	6th May 2023
	Rs. 500/-	4 Full Tests	4	20th May 2023
Test Series for JEE Main + JEE Advanced	Rs. 4,000/-	5 Part Tests (for Main & Advanced) + 2 Half Course Tests (for Main & Advanced) + 10 Full Tests (for Main & Advanced)	34	4th February 2023
	Rs. 2,400/-	6 Full Tests (Main) + 2 Half Course Tests (Advanced) + 10 Full Tests (Advanced)	18	21st March 2023

All Tests can be taken multiple times. Each Test will give you detailed Analysis Chart & Rank Potential Index

*(including GST)

To know the details of myPAT programs for **JEE 2024 & JEE 2025 and NTSE 2023-24 & NTSE 2024-25**, please visit **www.mypat.in** | Complete details of **Scholarships for myPAT programs** are also available on the same link.

Non-Classroom Programs for JEE Main & Advanced 2024 & 2025 & Foundation Programs for Students going to Class IX & X

Computer Based ALL INDIA TEST SERIES (THE ORIGINAL ONE) — For JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2024 & 2025
www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/aits1-2-2024
www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/aits2-2025

RANKERS STUDY MATERIAL (THE IDEAL CORRESPONDENCE COURSE) — For JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2024 & 2025
www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/rsm1-2024
www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/rsm2-2025

JUNIOR RANKERS STUDY MATERIAL (THE IDEAL CORRESPONDENCE COURSE) — For Students going to Class IX & X
www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/jrsm1-2026
www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/jrsm2-2027

Online ALL INDIA OPEN TEST SERIES FOR NTSE — For Students going to Class X
www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/aiots

Call: 011 - 41828706
e-mail : query.ncrp@fiitjee.com

Where winning is a habit !

FIITJEE

30 YEARS OF INNOVATION, SINCERITY, ETHICS, CONSISTENCY & HARD WORK

Bangalore Centres - HSR Layout : 119, S. S. Plaza , 13th Cross, 6th Sector, Outer Ring Road, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560 102 Ph: 080 - 49149900, 8904795799, 9742288873, 9513745155 **Jayanagar :** 28, 36th Cross, 5th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 041 Ph : 9742288873, 9513745155 **Sheshadripuram :** 113/114, 3rd floor HTR Chambers, Opp Hoysala Hotel, SC Road. Sheshadripuram- 560 020 Ph: 9742288873 | **Web: www.fiitjeebangalore.com** | **Hostel Facility Available**

National Admissions Office: FIITJEE House, 29-A, Kalu Sarai, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi Web: www.fiitjee.com Buy books at www.megacosmcognitions.com www.facebook.com/fiitjeeindia123 www.twitter.com/fiitjee www.youtube.com/fiitjeeltd

The Premier Institute for JEE Main, JEE Advanced, Boards, various Olympiads & NTSE

FIITJEE eSchool — bringing offline expertise to online

Live Online Classroom Programs for Class VI to XII Pass Students

The next best learning medium after FIITJEE Offline Classroom Programs right at your doorstep. Join from anywhere & experience FIITJEE's legendary pedagogy.

For address & location details of FIITJEE eSchool Information & Counselling Centres, visit **www.fiitjee-eschool.com/contactus.html**
e-Mail : query@fiitjee-eschool.com | To receive a call back (for eSchool), give a missed call on **9289550392** |
For Program Enquiry, call on 8400928400 | **www.fiitjee-eschool.com**

J BG-BGE

Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

DOCTOR

DOCTOR GIRL, MD Anesthesiology, 33, 165 fair, pretty, well mannered and cultured, well placed, Chennai based doctor family. Father doctor Kerala Nair, Mother Tamil CSI. MD, MS, MCh boys from good families preferred. Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

Unmarried Sunni Urdu MD or MS Doctor for my Daughter 25 / 160 studying MD in Tamil Nadu. Reply Color Photos and Contact Number to marhaba1889@gmail.com

ENGINEER

MATCH FOR Smart, Fair, Slim Nai Girl 27/5ft 4inch M.Arch. Working in New Delhi. Preferred Doctor/Engineer/Officer. WhatsApp: 9319928449

HINDI

✔ **5'5" HEIGHT,28 years,Very fair, BTech(CSE)+MBA, HR Manager in company. Dhobi girl. Contact:09667459401**

WANTED GROOMS Kayastha Gril 29 years BE/153cm Beautiful Fair working as Group1 officer (T.N Govt). Apply only in Tamil Nadu. 8825969908

MALAYALAM

RC GIRL 26/170cm Working In MICROSOFT.Parents Keralite Settled In CHENNAI.Own BUISINESS Seeks Chennai Based GROOM From a Good Family Background.9884185583

HINDU – SC Girl: 36/157, Agri -Scientist - (CG-Pune) from south Kerala, seeks alliance from well educated professionals. Contact: 7972420241, 9447296008

Groom Wanted
Pretty Nair girl 5' 1"
Stanford LLM Lawyer Graduate passed California bar, now working for an American big law firm in London seeks alliances from qualified professionals from UK or USA. Doctors and lawyers preferred from nair / menon community
Call/WhatsApp +919447284008

NRI

We are looking for our Daughter, a practicing Muslim Hijabi. She is 29 years of age, 5'4" in height and is slim. She is a US Citizen. Currently, our Daughter is in Graduate School Pursuing her Ph.D. We are looking for a tall, Practicing Deen Orientated Muslim, Preferable age 29-35, who has strong Family values. We are seeking someone who has been accepted to a US Medical Residency Program or a Practicing Dentist in the U.S. Serious inquiries only. You can Contact me at Email: hydrolion1@gmail.com, 1773-988-8113,

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

Hearing Impaired Hindu, 43, PG Divorcee,Issueless seeks Hindu/christian Hearing Impaired, Teetotaller,Vegtrn, Fincly stable.Ct:8248998374 aftr 11am

TAMIL

DIVORCEE CSI Christian AD 37 Years / 159 Cms B.Sc Nursing. Working in Military Nursing Service (Major Rank) 10 L/pa (No child). Seeks suitable groom without child. Caste no bar. Contact : 9447 578421 / 9667 667264.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

WELL EDUCATED, well settled Bridegroom from a affluent family age 31 to 34 for my daughter, fair, good looking, God fearing, B.Com, MBA getting a monthly Income of Rs.6 lakhs . We are CSI Nadar Christian. Parents Contact. 98401 29090.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

TAMIL

GOD FEARING well to do Groom for a God fearing, fair, beautiful , bride Nadar Christian, MBA (UK) , aged 31 from well settled family, employed in a Foreign Embassy in Chennai. Parents Contact. 95000 27027

RC CHRISTIAN 39/157cm; B.E; M.B.A; MNC Manager, re–marriage from educated & settled family seeks professionally qualified teetotaller groom less than or equals to 44yrs from TN Christian family. Ph 9842260597.

AD 27/160 Dr,wrking seeks groom blw 31y from well settled edu tamil fmly Dr/ Er/Bank/Govt, psu officer 7010541307

HINDU MUTHURAJA 29/164cm, B.E, IT. Seeks employed Engineering Groom. Other BC communities accepted. Contact : 98433 42955

MUDALIAR SLIM 26 Yrs/172 Cms, Virchigam MD 2nd Year (Homeo) seeks suitable groom. Ct: 9778182019 / 8921394460.

24Chettiar 28/157 BE girl Group1 Officer DSP,seeks groom from Officer Rank/Business Family 9443232363

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 24/ 160, B.E, MS (USA) Amazon, SWE, USA, 700000 PM, Elite Family – Seeks Groom Abroad / India – 8939012419

INTER CASTE Parents seek for daughter 27/156 SWE employed Chennai, from suitable Hindu groom. 90032 87101

SAIVA PILLAI 27/165 BE Civil Wheatish Maharam seeks employed groom. Contact: 6380810427

HINDU ADIDRAVIDA 32/155/MBA 50K Tula–Swathi seeks qualified Groom from well Settled Family. Ct:9444711533

GIRL 35 yrs,Fair, Mithunam, B.Com, MBA,Grammani ,working, Seeks suitable groom. Contact: 9445287838

BRIDE HOLDING Group–B post in Indian Foreign Service seeks alliance. 25yr, 5ft 5inch, BSc(Maths), beautiful, slim, Iyer, Athreya. Tamil Brahmin groom only. robot3391@gmail.com

INTERCASTE HINDU parents, girl B.Tech. BL., aged 32, fair 173cm. Star Chithirai. Seeks well educated, employed groom, any caste in Hindu family. Contact 82480 53864

HINDU MUTHURAJA, 28 / 155 / BE / Software Engineer in UK.Seeks groom in UK or willing to go to UK. Caste No Bar. 99444 00307, 89034 21862

INTER CASTE DOCTOR Parents Pillai / DKV Seeks alliance for their daughter good looking, 168/26 M.Com Uthirattathi, Meenam. Boy should be well educated well placed in TN / Bangalore age around 30 preferable. Contact Whatsapp Only. 93632 80595

GAVARA, 30/159cm, M.E., Central Govt., Divorcee without encumbrance, Parents Central Govt. seeks suitable Groom - affluent family. 89035 96009.

CHETTIAR, 31/167cm, B.E., PGDM (IIM), Manager, 24L p.a, seeks equally qualified Groom. CNB. 80722 31783.

HINDU SC Adi dravida, BE MBA, Female age 29, working in Accenture, Contact 9444991091.

VISWABRAHMIN(GS) / Thiruvonam 40/150 ME(CSE) / Rich / Fair seeks Same Caste Groom. 9486320982

SEEKING ALLIANCE from US based grooms for US working girl. Caste no bar. Age 26 MS (PhD). Vanniyar Kettai. Pls contact 9940372423

BG AD/SC MTECH/ME GOVT JOB in Chennai for 32/168 CMS PhD Eng. GOVT Eng. lecturer no sibling Father Retd Central Govt matri9757@gmail.com.

SOZHIYA VELLALAR 26/161 Kettai B.Arch MNC Hydrabad, Seeks Groom with Good Job, Pillai/Mudaliar 9443471829

TAMIL

WANTED GROOM for 22 B.E.151cm MIRUKASIRISHAM, ISAIVELALAR, working in a reputed IT company in Chennai with 4.5 LPA. Good family background. Groom from similar backgrounds is welcome Contact 9952847138/9500272445.

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

MUDALIAR 26, BE, MBA, 162cm,Good looking well Settled Family Seeks Alliance CNB, Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

DKV 28/167 Fair BE. TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu / CSI. Seeks Groom Dr / Er. Govt Employee. Ct: 8056143638

HINDU SAIVA Pillai Bride, 1987 Born, Magham, Veg, Beautiful, U.S. Educated, Senior Economist seeks Groom aged 36-39yrs, Smart, Veg, Highly Qualified, settled Professional preferebly based in Mumbai. Contact: 9994022477

MUDALIAR 25/160, Fair, Beautiful, MBBS, 60K PM, Business, Elite Family, 50Cr, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

VEG GIRL Telugu Karthigai 39/156 MCom, B.Ed. Chennai Seeks employed Reputed Co Groom. Caste No Bar – Preferred BC, MBC. Ct: 8056012713

✔ **HINDU–NADAR** AGE 24,B.Arch.Sathay am–Kumbam,seeks well qualified Employed India/Abroad .9884398959

HINDU DEVAR 36, BE, 166cm, USA Monthly Income:3,00,000 Seeks Groom.Caste No Bar. 8939691888 / 9710093999

47/163 MUDALIAR/PILLAI, M.com, MBA, Seeks Qualified Unmarried Below 50, Clean habits, CNB. Ct: 9176774676/ 9500113136 anbumatri@gmail.com

ALLAINCE FOR Iyengar Girl 28/152 Sankrithi Swathi B.E. Chennai Employed 25L P.A. Ct: 9840905972

TAMIL IYER Vadamal Srivatsam Hastham Age 29 58kg 165cm M. S.(CS) Job:Bay Area, CA,USA.Seeks Groom from Same Area or Relocation Ct:7358206848

GROOM WANTED
VELLALA PILLAI 44/5.2, Very Fair, Good Looking, Working as IT Professional in UK in a reputed US-MNC, Affluent and Educated Family living in Chennai. Seeks Well Settled Professional Groom from equal communities in India, with clean habits, never married, based in UK, USA, Australia, Dubai, Singapore and India. Early Marriage. Brokers excuse.
Ct : 9884453236
chennaibride2022@gmail.com

Good looking 5'7", Architect, 26 years from Chennai/ Bangalore upper middle-class family looking for well educated settled smart groom between 27-31years from affluent Hindu family (non-veg)
Caste no bar
Please call or what's app
7401126915
9840087994

AD 27/153 Assistant Engineer, CMWSSB Govt, Posham, posted Chennai. blw 31 Yrs, Ph: 9443151444

SAIVA PILLAI 1974 B.Sc MA seeks Educated and well settled Groom with good family background. 9894548428

TELUGU

REPUTED NAIDU affluent Business Family in Chennai seeks Bridegroom from USA,for their Beautiful Daughter BE, MS, MBA, 27yrs,working in USA (greencard under process) preferably Chennai settled families 9884235562

TELUGU

GROOM WANTED
KAPU NAIDU Telugu, 29/152, Fair, White and Slim Girl, B.Tech., MBA. Rich, Owned 2 Engineering Colleges, No Brothers, Grand Father Sitting MLA. Seeks suitable rich kapu groom from AP/TS
Contact Mobile : 6281218694

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

41 YEAR old Bengali, never married, Australian citizen, UQ Graduate in Accounting and Law, working full time as lawyer in Brisbane Australia. Good family. Wants beautiful and smart bride 22 to 30 years old. email - prabal.kar@gmail.com

COSMOPOLITAN

TELUGU SC Mala groom, 29 ,175 cm, Handsome, B.Tech and Masters, from well to do educated family, working in U.K., seeks educated beautiful bride between the age 23–27 from an educated family. Caste or language no bar. Send bio, photo to indirapriya1968@gmail.com, 8328645024. No brokers.

DOCTOR

TAMIL MUSLIM 29/184 MDS Prosthodontist S/O District Judge (Rtd.) seeks Doctor bride. Contact: 9047613106.

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

A WELL employed Kerala muslim boy Bangalore based sr.engg, 32yrs seeking alliance from the muslim girls.Ph no : 9487885999, 9786509095 (Wapp)

NAIR 33 MCA Divorce Poorarutathi Team Lead in Accenture Drawing Rs.18L/PA Seeks Suitable Bride 9840534600

MENON BOY, 35/174, B.Tech, MS, MBA (Cornell, USA) Project Manager, Toronto with PR, Looking for Good Looking qualified girl. 9995205841.

MENON YOUTH 45/181 Divorced, Financially sound, B.Tech, MBA, FMSPI working in MNC at Kochi as Deputy General Manager. 9633001187.

TAMIL

47, MBA, tall, well settled Widower with a 16 year old son is looking for a partner over 40 years. City bred, educated, broad minded, fun loving, peaceful person may send details to varamsathya@gmail.com

HINDU VANNIAR Sadhayam 49 Second Marriage, Divorced Govt. of Dubai (Airport) 2.5 Lpm, seeks suitable bride. Cont:9790582851

42, CHENNAI Boy working as Advisor Cyber Security in Chennai, seeks good character girl for his first marriage. Caste no bar, education no bar, no dowry. if interested Call: 9742033888, email: saravananjvjv@gmail.com. All the best for you partner search as well.

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E., 28/167 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride 8248195168, 8667380725

SENGUNTHAR KETTAI 36/165, M.Tech (Ph.D), Asst. Prof.(HOD) Pvt. Engg. College, Pondicherry, seeks bride age 28 to 35yrs. Cont:9442557578

EliteMatrimony.com
Exclusive matchmaking service for the elite from Matrimony.com Group

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 28, 180 cms, Businessman, MBBS. Lives in Gudiyatham. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match from any Mudaliyar community. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 35, 158 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from Mudaliyar community. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 27, 175 cms, Software Professional, MS. Lives in USA. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match from any Chettiar community in and around Chennai and USA only. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 48, 180 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Mother is an Entrepreneur. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match from any similar community. Contact: 6366448343

KAMMA, 35, 158 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match from Kamma Naidu community. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

DEVAR, 25, 185 cms, Doctor, MBBS. Lives in USA. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match from any community in USA. Contact: 6366448344

PILLAI, 23, 160 cms, Management Professional, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any community in Chennai, Coimbatore and Australia. Contact: 6366448343

INTER CASTE, 29, 163 cms, Instruments and Control Engineer, MS. Lives in Canada. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a suitable match from any community in Chennai, Coimbatore and Australia. Contact: 6366448343

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, PG. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

NAIDU KAMMA, 26, 160 cms, Pursuing M.Arch. Lives in UK. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match from any community in UK/ USA only. Contact: 6366448343

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

DOCTOR

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar height: 169cm Doctor MDRD Nov 1992 Born Looking for a Christian Nadar Doctor Bride Contact: 63810 00493

ENGLISH

TAMIL YADHAVA Boy Biotech Specialist Resident in Australia 37Years/ 5'10"seeks suitable bride from good family. Caste no bar. Contact:9677181668.

NRI

VISWAKARMA 31/155 Maham Ph.D Scientist well settled in Newyork,seeks bride studying / working in USA. Caste nobar.CT : 7200771188

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN 48/175 B.com Divorcee Govt.Job. 90,000/-PM Chennai. Caste No bar. Ph: 8825897792 / 9940671540

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with DIP in Cardiology Private Doctor good looking lives in Nagercoil, Innocent Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride / Divorcee above 28yrs. Contact: 90039 83230.

BORN AGAIN Christian Canadian citizen 50yrs fair youngish innocent divorcee Seeks born again Christian settled in Canada. Email draj220466@gmail.com

SASIKUMAR, HINDU Naadar (42), Divorcee, 40k Cancer, Poosam & 2 kids (M) 10&9, Caste no matters, no expectations, expecting partner without kids, Mediators pls avoid 9840075677

TAMIL

BOY 40/173 divorcee SWE Apple US seek Bride below 38 years Contact : 9901026582

VISWABRAHMIN(GS) / Thiruvonam 40/170 ACA & ACMA/ 70000 MNC seeks Same Caste Bride. 9486320982

HINDU BALIJA Naidu, 5.11, BE,Working in Bangalore, Inc 19L PA Seeks Suitable Bride.9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDU NADAR 27, 175cm, BE, Income 150000/– Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

INTERCASTE (BC&FC), 44y/5'7", IT, BE MS, Divorcee (Short lived marriage; No kids), Clean habits. Seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9790911710

TAMIL

HINDU 41 / 172 Anusham, Virchakam M.com., Working in Bank (Govt.) Chennai. Seeks Suitable Chennai Bride. Caste no bar. Ct: 9791189937

Isai Vellar/Senguntha Mudaliar 27/ 177 BTech EE NIT AJIO B'lore 25L PA Star Pooram/Raasi Simham no sibling & Mother Father Engr PD Central Govt seek suitable Girl preferably work in IT Contact: 9818605520.

VELLALAR POOSAM 42yrs, Never Married, Manager, MNC, Chennai 1.5Lpm, seeks suitable Graduate Employed unmarried Hindu bride below 37yrs. Cont:9600369231 (any time) / 9739751091(between 7-9am&pm only)

VISWAKARMA TAMIL 30/167 SW Eng Revathi/ME(ph.d)/Fair/RS.6 L PA seeks suitable bride 9444247481/ 8428432112

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 26/180, Coimbatore,B.Com., MBA Manager D-Mart Tirupur,Rs. 4.5 Lakhs p.a, seeks suitable eduacted bride from same caste.CT: 97913-05223, 97917-15531.

GAVARA NAIDU, 38/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Engg), Cheif Engr, MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First marriage seeks educated Bride. Ct:9487272897

HINDU DKV Pallan ME, 41/167cm Manager Nationalised Bank. Seeks Suitable Bride. CT 99652 11259

MUKULATHOOR BOY 36/171 Handsome Own Business Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride from Decent Family. Caste No Bar. Ph: 9884899749, 7358561070 Email: mr_bose55@yahoo.com

PREFERRED BRAHMIN girl, Fair & handsome boy (koushigam brahmin) 5 ft 9 inch (08/04/1991 6:54 pm) MECS (PhD) wrk: Asst Prof kalasalingam Univ (10LPA) Madurai Ph 9840780825.

HINDU YADAVA 26/179 Handsome B.Tech working MNC, 30LPA. very shortlived first marriage only 6 months, Father PSU officer. CNB 7904627469

B.RAJESHKUMAR(35)M.COM,MEDICAL LAB machine Distributor.No Parents, Rs.1.5 Lakh per month Salem.Hindu Nair Tamil. Own Houses–3, Land–2, seeks bride.Caste No Bar CT: 9003639434

MUDALIAR 29/180, Fair, Handsome, MBBS, MS, 1500000.PA, Elite Family, 50Cr, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

UK CITIZEN Business, Divorced, Tamil, Hindu, Chettiyar, 50 years Now in Chennai. Seeking Bride Age 35–40 yrs, Divorce or Widow, No Children, Caste no bar, No dowry if interested Ct: 9940057666

CNB, 33 / 182 M.E Handsome Govt 6.6 PA Meesham / Ashwini Seeks Suitable Girl Ct: 9962533302 / 9894789830

RC VELLALA Mudaliar: 30/Handsome,B.Tech, MBA, Textile Business, Chennai, Only son, Well settled Family – Seeks Bride Any Degree – 9840573419

HINDU NADAR 47, BE/MS 175cm, VIP, USA, Monthly Inc–10,00,000 Caste No Bar Divorce, Seeks Bride 9380791999

IYER, 32 / 178cm, B.Tech, Koundinyam, Pooratathi, Google, Singapore. Parents in Chennai. Affluent. Looking for a Suitable Brahmin alliance, Subsect No Bar. Ph: 98403 59234

IYER, VADAMAL, Pourugutsigam, 06/04/1983,183cm, Uthradam, B.Com (CA-Final), GM-Finance in IT-Startup, 12L per annum, Coimbatore, sub-sect no bar. CT: 9945878994, 9940035935.

TAMIL

STAR ASHWINI, Udithya Gothram, Jan 75 born, 40L PA, Divorced (Unconsummated Marriage) Chennai based, Tamil Brahmin Iyer Boy Seeks Unmarried / Divorced Family Oriented Brahmin Girl with Clean Habits. 9385807542, rajeshvenkataramani4@gmail.com

TAMIL IYENGAR Bride for 34/165, BE PGDM MNC Chennai Vadulam Uthradam Vadakalai. Ct: 9884755154

ALLIANCE INVITED from Brahmin Bride for Brahmim Bachelor (38) with good look and health, Sr. Business Consultant (IT) 60,000/–p.m + other income. Divorcee W.O issue, bride with small set back may contact 9789075763

IYER, VADAMAL, Pourugutsigam, 11/08/1981,183cm,Kettai, BE (ECE), Director in IT-Startup, 18L per annum, Coimbatore, sub-sect no bar, Unmarried / widow without issues CT: 9945878994, 9940035935.

BRIDE WANTED
A High Profile, well-established (Business) Family in Chennai is looking for a Beautiful Girl for their Suave and Humble 29 year old son.
✆ 80726 23211

BRIDE WANTED
HINDU, NADAR, 45/5.7', Own Business, Well settled, Divorcee (without issue) seeks suitable Bride/ Divorcee (without issue) below 38 yrs with good family background. Same Caste.
Ct: 9042853519

MS Ortho DNB-Asst prof 29/176 workg in corporate hospital looking for a bride prefrbly doctors from SC-Adi Dravida. Photo,details H-scope. 93828 89575 / kabilarramni1906@gmail.com

TAMIL

IYER BRIDE WANTED
For Kerala brahmin **Iyer Groom,** aged 38 Singapore based, Chemical Engineering Graduate, Clean Habits, Tall, well built, good looking, family oriented, self employed with multinational Gojek, Singapore
Horoscope match optional
Groom available in Chennai **21-30 Dec**
Contact: Groom's Parent
Vijayan: (65) 93837119
or
p_v_vijayan@hotmail.com

TELUGU

DEVANGA 38/170, B.Arch Thiruvadhirai, Self Employment Seeking Bride Degree with Job. CNB. Never Married, No Issues for widower & Divorcee without any Pbm. Ct: 9962135928

REPUTED NAIDU affluent Business Family in Chennai seeks Bride from USA, for their Son B.E., M.S. USA, 32 yrs,Vice President of a Global Bank in USA, Doctors from India also preferred. Ct: 9840050920

RICH KAMMANAIDU, 28/ B.Tech, Own 3 Spinning Mills, Wind Mills, (Only Son) Seeks Bride. Ct: 72002–61495

NAIDU, AGE.49, 2nd Marriage, Own Business, Well Settled in USA. Need: Any Deg. (Age:35 to 43) 9080295703

URDU

SMU 29 BCA Tall Slim Fair Work in Exaware Seek Bride from Religious Progressive Family Whatsap 9840403377

SUNNI MUSLIM parents invite alliance for their son MBBS, MD (General Medicine), DM (Cardiology), presently working as Associate Cardiologist in a reputed hospital, Bangalore. Looking for a beautiful girl from a respectable family who has completed / in final year DM/ MD/ MS Degree. Contact & Whatsapp: 9845614231

SMU BE S/W Eng & Business fly, 40 / 166 Separated, No Child Affluent Namazi seeks bride with Deen & fly values. 81243 08296 / 78715 71483

MUSLIM/SHAIK. AMZAD ALI, 29YRS, 170CM, Fair, MBA (VIT-TN), MS(USA), IT Project Manager (USA), 93 Lakhs P.A. Native of KADAPA, Residing at HYDERABAD, Seeks Bride. Cell:8919841945 .

GENERAL

BOOKS & PERIODICALS

THAMIZH PUTTHAGA THIRUVIZHA
Date : 25.12. 2022 to 01.01.2023
Everyday : 11.00 AM to 8.00 PM
at Thiruvalluvar Arangam
Bangalore Tamil Sangam,
Annaswamy Mudaliar Road, Bengaluru-560042
தமிழ்ப் புத்தகத் திருவிழா 2022 பெங்களூரு
For details: 94837 55974

TELUGU

NAIDU 32, Well Settled, B Tech, MBA, MNC veg, fair & Pretty seeks equally Qualified groom, Contact: 9941348103

NAIDU 41/150cm Uthirattathi, PH.D, Asst.Prof, first Marriage,seeks suitable Groom. sub sect No Bar. 7358166806

SC-Madiga 38, 5'5 MSc Bio-Tech, Working in HSBC, Salary 12L, 1st Marriage, seeks Qualified Groom Contact: 9966602684, 9246205517

NAIDU : 24/160,V.Fair,B.E, Amazon, Engineer, Chennai, Only Daughter, Elite Family – Seeks Groom – Eng / Business / Doctor – 8925019776

URDU

MDS 27 yrs 161 cms Religious,Slim & Fair seeks Groom from MBBS, MDS, MBA & Engg. 99404 50455, 90427 86424

URDU MUSLIM Sheik / Syed BE–Architect 24 / 163cm religious, slim seeks groom from Educated and good family. Ct: 9444086515, 9841741885

URDU MUSLIM Sheik/Syed B.Sc–Computer 26/163cm religious, good looking seeks groom from Educated and good family. Ct: 9444862826, 9999725706.

SMU Fair 27/152cm BE/MS (non-IT) works in Japan, open to relocate. Parents seek groom from well settled qualified good family. CT:9789622873.

SITUATIONS VACANT

GENERAL

Experienced Civil Engineers Worked in Government Projects like Multistoreyed Buildings, Storm Water Drain, Bridges.
Good salary based on Performance

ACCOUNTANT	- 2
PROJECT ENGINEER	- 5
SITE ENGINEER	- 5
STOREKEEPER	- 2
BILLING ENGINEER	- 2

Location: Chennai, Tirunelveli & Thoothukudi
Ph : 8838984738
interview.cipl@gmail.com

HOTELS

LEADING RESTAURANT in GOA req 1. Finance Controller cum HR 2. Purchase Executive. Min 3 yrs Exp in Hotel Industries. Attractive Salary. Send resume to: sarathhr79@gmail.com

MARKETING

REQUIRED 3 – 5 years exp in Sales for Engineering company @ Chennai 72002 88972

MARKETING

WANTED
Required Marketing Manager well versed in marketing of Textiles and Garments.
Minimum 3 years' experience.
Qualifications: Graduate
Age: No bar
Salary: Negotiable.
Apply to email: kannanventure22@gmail.com

MEDICAL

WANTED EXPERIENCED Dentist, Physiotherapist. D.M.S. Hospital, Batlagundu, Dindigul. Ct: 9994913702

GENERAL

Strategy and Synergy for Security

SOCIETY FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS AND SECURITY (SETS)
MGR Knowledge City,
CIT Campus, Taramani, Chennai – 600 113

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE & ACCOUNTS OFFICER (CAAO)

SETS is a Society under Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860, dedicated to research and development in the field of Information Security. It was formed as a Government of India initiative and is fully directed by a high power apex body with Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to GoI as the President of the Society.

Remuneration : Basic - Rs.1,23,100/- plus applicable DA as per Central Government and a Consolidated Allowance of Rs.49,612/- per month.

AGE: Not below 50years. The maximum age for the CAAO to hold the Office shall be 65 years.

Last Date of receipt of applications : 27th January 2023

For further details please visit our website:
www.setsindia.in/Careers/Opportunities

OVERSEAS

URGENT REQUIREMENT – DUBAI
Fire Protection Company based in Dubai, specialized in undertaking turnkey jobs in Fire Protection, Fire Alarm & Detection System urgently requires the following:

1.Fire Protection Design Engineers
2.Fire Protection Estimation Engineers
3.Secretary / Document Controller (Male)
4.CNC Lathe & Punching M/c programmers
AutoCAD Draughtsman for Chennai Office

Minimum Experience required : 2 – 3 years

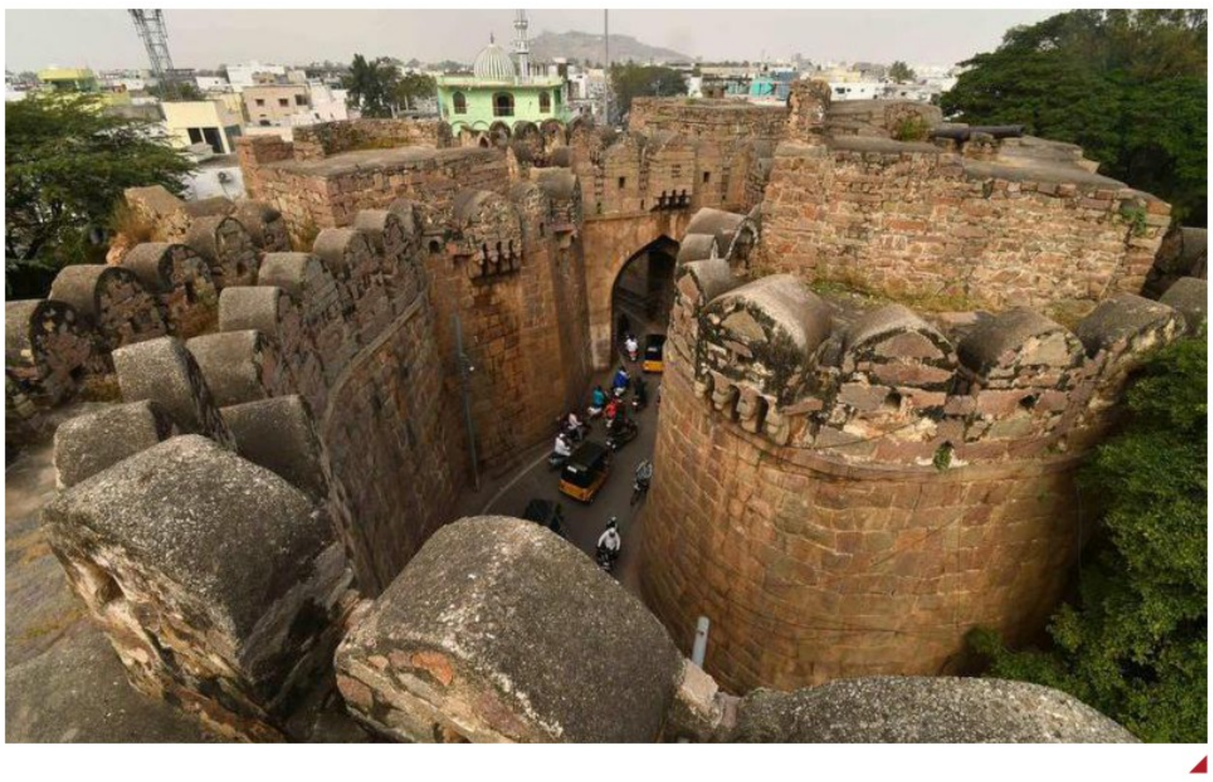
Please share your CVs immediately to:
ibrahim@zenerfire.com

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

ASQUITH FLOOR Borer CNC – FANUC X–8m, Y–3.2m, Z–900mm, Spindle dia 180mm. Price 80L. Ct: 9884485691 / 692

Time's signatures: Visitors have vandalised the Fateh Rahbar by carving their names on the mighty cannon that was used to vanquish Qutab Shahi ruler Abul Hasan Tana Shah.

Decrepit state: A dilapidated and rusted screw-type bayonet cannon.



Nightmare of foes: Cannons perched above Fateh Darwaza , one of the heavily fortified gates to the Golconda Fort.

Spruced up: Cannons at the State Archaeology Museum get a wash.

Silent vigil: A cannon near the 430-year-old Baoab tree on the perimeter of Quli Qutab Shah Tomb.

Man held for blackmailing woman with private photos

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

South East Division Police have arrested a man who was blackmailing a software engineer with her private photos and videos.

The victim lost her pendrive, which had her private photos and videos, near her residence. Soon, she started getting messages on WhatsApp from an unidentified man sending those photos asking her to pay up to prevent him from putting them up on the internet. The accused had also sent a QR code asking her to pay ₹70,000, prompting the victim to lodge a complaint with Cyber Crime Police in October.

The police, who tried to track down the accused for over two months, finally identified him and arrested Shoaib Ahmed, a labourer who was painting walls in the area and found the pendrive. He enquired around and got the victim's number and started blackmailing her, police said.

Kempanna, four other office-bearers of Karnataka State Contractor's Association held, released on bail

He has been at the forefront of fight against alleged '40% commission' in govt. contracts; non-bailable warrants were issued against the office-bearers in criminal defamation case filed by Munirathna; issue expected to kick up a political storm

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

High drama prevailed on Saturday night as five office-bearers of the Karnataka State Contractor's Association, including its president D. Kempanna, who has been at the forefront of the fight against the alleged "40% commission" in contracts awarded by the State government, were arrested by the Vyalikaval police. They were granted bail around midnight.

The police arrested Mr. Kempanna, vice-presidents R. Ambikapathy and V. Krishna Reddy, treasurer H.S. Nataraj, and organising secretary B.S. Gurusiddappa of the association.

The arrests were made executing the non-bailable warrants (NBWs) issued against them by VIII ACMM Court hearing a criminal defamation case filed by Minister of Horticulture, Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Munirathna over corruption allegations made by Mr. Kempanna and others against him.

D. Kempanna, president of the Karnataka State Contractor's Association. FILE PHOTO

All the five who were arrested were produced before the magistrate at his residence. The magistrate granted them bail, following which they were released.

In August, Mr. Kempanna had without naming Mr. Munirathna said the district in-charge Minister of Kolar had been threatening officials to collect and get him money. Mr. Muni-

In August, Kempanna had without naming Munirathna said the district in-charge Minister of Kolar had been threatening officials to collect and get him money

rathna, who initially gave a seven-day ultimatum to furnish evidence to back the claim, later filed a civil defamation claiming ₹50 crore in damages and a criminal defamation case against Mr. Kempanna and 18 other-office bearers of the association.

Meanwhile, the VIII ACMM Court hearing the criminal defamation case found *prima facie* merit in the case and ordered registration of a criminal case and issued summons to all the 19 respondents. On Thursday, the court issued NBWs against all the respondents after they failed to attend the court.

Coming amidst the ongoing legislature session in Belagavi, the issue is expected to kick up a political storm.

Priyank Kharge, spokesperson, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, said the contractors' association was a registered organisation carrying out the State government's works and allegations made by it to the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister warranted an impartial inquiry. "But what we are seeing now is only harassment of whistleblowers, which only shows that the government has something to hide," he said, adding that the Congress would take up the matter in the legislature on Monday.

Large cache of ganja aimed at New Year celebrations seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have recovered 263.7 kilograms of ganja worth ₹35 lakh

The Konanakunte police have hauled in a big cache of ganja aimed at the New Year celebrations in the city. The police have recovered 263.7 kilograms of ganja worth ₹35 lakh from a dilapidated house used by a gang to store the narcotics.

Acting on a tip-off of ganja being stored in the abandoned house, the Konanakunte police raided the house, seized the large cache of ganja stored in plastic sacks, and arrested two men, Jagil Sethi, 44, and Murali, 26, both hailing from Odisha.

The duo had allegedly bought ganja from tribal settlements on the Odisha-Telangana border for a lower price in anticipation of a huge demand for the New Year celebrations in the city, police sources said.

In another case, the Banaswadi police arrested Shabbir, 26, hailing from Kerala, and recovered ₹2 lakh worth of 50 grams of MDMA crystals he was peddling.

According to the police, Shabbir had come to the city four months ago and was working as a cab driver, but took to peddling drugs, as the money from driving a cab was not enough to solve financial difficulties back home.

Book released

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An anthology of Hindi poems, *Lafzon ki Mehfil*, written by Amana J. Kumar, a 9th standard student of Bishop Cotton Girls' School, was recently released by Governor Taawarachand Gehlot. Prior to this, she has penned two books in English.

Principal of residential school arrested under POCSO Act

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

The Yadgir police arrested Galeppa Pujari, Principal (Administration) of Moraraji Desai Residential School at Motnalli village in Gurmitkal taluk in connection with a case under POCSO Act.

Mr. Pujari is accused of indecent talk and sexual harassment of a girl student over the phone.

As per the First Information Report registered on Friday by complainant Prem Murthy, District Child Protection Officer of District Child Protection Unit Yadgir, the accused had called the night watchwoman on November 26 at 9.37 p.m. and requested her to hand over the cell phone to a girl student of Class IX. When the victim received the call, the accused started talking in an indecent manner and called her to his room. The girl refused and disconnected the call.

After conducting an inquiry and talking to the victim with the help of officials from the mediation centre, Mr. Murthy registered the complaint with Yadgir Women Police Station and the police registered a case under section 354 (A) of the Indian Penal Code and section 12 of the POCSO Act. Confirming the arrest, C.B. Vedamurthy, SP, said the principal was arrested based on a complaint of sexual harassment of a girl student.

New office-bearers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Balachandra A. Yadalam has been elected president of the Karnataka Vintage and Classic Car Club for a period of three years.

According to a release, the other office-bearers and executive committee members who were elected are: Suresh P.A., vice-president; Raghunandan T.R. hon. secretary; Subbiah K.P., hon. treasurer; and Christopher N. Rodricks, Kedarnath Swamy, Byas U. Nambisan, Pankaj Motreja, and Srinand Piedpet, executive committee members.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, DEC. 25	
RISE 06:38	SET 18:01
RISE 08:33	SET 20:12
MONDAY, DEC. 26	
RISE 06:39	SET 18:01
RISE 09:31	SET 21:18
TUESDAY, DEC. 27	
RISE 06:39	SET 18:02
RISE 10:22	SET 22:18

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	18
Mysuru	31	16
Bengaluru	29	14

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool. Chances of light rain and thundershower at some places.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

APPOINTMENT

KBNU
KHAJA BANDANAWAZ UNIVERSITY
EDUCATING HUMANITY
(A Religious Minority University)
RECRUITMENT OF TEACHING STAFF
FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Applications are invited from eligible Citizens of India for appointment to various academic positions on full-time basis in the **Faculty of Medical Sciences, Khaja Bandanawaz University, Kalaburagi, Karnataka. Visit www.kbn.university for relevant details**
Registrar (I/c)

For Bengalureans this year, it's a green Christmas

There has been a shift to more sustainable and do-it-yourself decorations in the city rather than buying them from traditional markets; social media has become the hub for buying such decorations

Harshitha and Gizelle Gina D'Silva
BENGALURU

Christmas takes full form with its decorations, lights, and colours. While the markets gear up each year for this celebration, there has been a shift this time to more sustainable and do-it-yourself (DIY) decorations in the city.

Rather than traditional markets, social media has become the hub for buying sustainable Christmas decorations this year. "I sell handmade postcards and stickers, and one of the friends who purchased them stuck them on an ice-cream stick for one of her Christmas decorations. So, it is all about the creative usage of these items," said Anamica Jain, a city-based artist, who runs a small business making postcards on Instagram.

Carine Paul, a paper-cutting artist who runs a small business of paper decorations on Instagram, said: "I make frames that are Christmas themed, and also ones that are a great option for gifting during the season. I also make paper ornaments for the tree, star, socks, and the Advent candle."

With eco-friendly awareness gaining a buzz these days, people are also understanding the importance of sustainable Christmas decorations. "People buy Christmas decorations for their recycling ability. You buy a tree you can use for several years and the same goes with the decorating items as well," said Sandra Jennifer, who added new DIY decorations to her old collection of Christmas ornaments.

"This year, I have collected some beer bottles and painted them for aesthetics and have lit them with serial lights along with my previous decorations," she added.

While it might require some time and effort, many are also looking at how DIY decorations can be easy on the pockets.

"There is a sense of satisfaction when you make an artwork by yourself. Be it a small postcard, or an origami snowflake or any decorations from items which can be recycled is highly exhilarating when it is completed and you get to add it to your decorating items list," stated Diksha P., who has been going all DIY for Christmas this year.

"Time and patience are all one requires, but the result is worth it all. Plus, it is cost-effective," she said.

While the mainstream markets have opened up for full business this year, they are facing a see-saw in profits for Christmas.

"People will not buy these decorating items during this season, but since the pandemic, people have become more self-reliant, and have reduced their purchases for these items" said a shopkeeper in Commercial Street.

With awareness on being eco-friendly these days, people are understanding the importance of sustainable Christmas decorations.

O come all ye faithful

Special celebrations being held at St. Mary's Basilica in Bengaluru on Christmas eve. K. MURALI KUMAR

Disruption in water supply tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Owing to realignment of the existing 120 mm dia MS pipe by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board and underbridge work near Suranjandas Road - Old Airport Road junction by BBMP, the Cauvery water supply will be disrupted on Monday between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

According to a BWSSB release, the areas that will be affected are: M.P. Camp, K.R. Garden, Vinayakanagar, Sri Ramanagara Slum, Nanja Reddy Colony, N.R. Layout, Manjunatha Layout, Airview Colony, Indiranagar, Motappanapalya, Appareddypalya, Defence Colony, Michael Palya, H. Colony, Binnamangala 1st Phase, G.M. Palya, Kaveri Layout, Malleshpalya, Suddaguntepalya, Kaggadasapura, New Thippasandra and HAL 3rd Stage, and the surrounding areas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **"Mr. Raja Nahusha Varsha, S/o. Mr.Raja Amareshwara Naik"**, Residing at # 1-4-111/03, 'Shakthi Sadana', BS Road, Lingasugur, Gurgunta, Raichur 584 139 intends to purchase the Property bearing Corporation No.31, PID No.35-3-31, (Old No.1731), subsequently assigned Corporation No.31/1731), measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 2400 square feet along with building, situated at **17th Cross, Magadi Road Chord Road Extension, Bangalore,** earlier within the limits Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.35, now within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.125, Bengaluru, which is bounded as follows:
East by : Road,
West by : Private Property (Old Site No.1668),
North by : Private Property (Old Site No.1732),
South by : Private Property (Old Site No.1730).
From its owner **Mr.Vijay Kumar Sharma S/o. Laluramji Sharma,** Residing at # 21, Polo Ground, Udaipur, Rajasthan, Presently camp at Bengaluru.
Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence **within 10 days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no claims over the said property.

MVJS Law Chambers, Advocate,
No.52, 4th Cross, Ganesha Block, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore 560 096.
Mobile Nos. 9538305787.
Email : mvjslawchambers@gmail.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given on behalf of my client **Mr. SYED SHOAIB MOHAMMAD PASHA,** that the property as more Particularly described in the schedule hereunder and Situated at Hagadur Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.
Any person(s) having claim(s) or objection(s) to our client purchasing the above property should write to the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of advertisement, failing which our client shall be free to purchase the said property from the aforesaid persons.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Plot Nos.7 and 8,** formed in Sy.No.142/8, Situated at **Hagadur Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** (residentially converted vide application No.223058, dated 27-07-2021 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore City District), measuring 55x40 sq.ft. **Totally measuring 2200 sq.ft,** and bounded on:
East by : Site No.6A,
West by : Site No.9,
North by : 25 feet Road,
South by : Private Property.

Santhosh Kumar S
MBA, LLB, Advocate
Licit Go Legal
#88, Share Space,
Near Whitefield Post Office,
Borewell Road, Whitefield
Bangalore-66. Ph: 9741 33 33 77

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify for the general information of public that my client **Smt. Bhagya Lakshmi Patil w/o Patil Sasidhar Goud** and **Patil Sasidhar Goud S/o Patil Veeranna Goud** R/o # 442, 1st Floor, 8th Cross, ITI Layout, Mallathahalli Bangalore-560056. intends to purchase the schedule property hereunder from its lawful owner **S.A.L.Vinay S/o Ananthraju,** R/o # 180, 240/2A, 13th Cross, 1st Phase, Near Anjaneya Temple, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-560078, who is the absolute owner in possession of the schedule property, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 26-12-2006 registered as document No.KEN-1-34553-2006-07, Book-I, stored in CD.No.KEND359, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore.
Any Person or Group of Persons or institutions having any Right, Title, Interest, Charge, Lien and Minor claims whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge his/her and their/its claim to the undersigned with documentary proof within period of **7 days** from the date of this publication failing which it will be presumed that here are no objections/Claims, disputes in respect of the schedule property and they will proceed to get the Schedule Property through sale transaction and get the Property Conveyed in their favour or in their nominee/s.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural Land bearing **Sy.No.79,** measuring 05 Acre 4 Guntas, including 13 Guntas Kharab land situated at **Chinnakurchi Village, Kengeri-2 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** and bounded on the:
East by : Sy No.62(Old) Sy No.12 & 14(New).
West by : Sy No. 66/1A,
North by : Sy No. 65/1, 2, 3 & 4,
South by : Road & Sy No. 67 (Old) Sy No.42 & 25 (New)

SHESHAPPAGOUDA PATIL, Advocate
R.R. Nagar, Bangalore-560098,
Mobile No. : 9480117041,

Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE — THE HINDU

GENERAL

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 26th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH - 20)
O.S No. 25595/2020
Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Land mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068 Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
V. L. Raghavendra Prasanna
...Defendant
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
To,
V.L. Raghavendra Prasanna,
S/o Sri. Vemanapalli Ramakrishna, Aged about 34 years, No.718/A, 12th Cross, Ashok Nagar, Near Vidya Peetha Circle, Bangalore- 560 050 ...Defendant
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 5,21,544/- (Rupees Five Lakh Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred Forty Four Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 26th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH- 20) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 09/02/2023 at at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 22/12/2022.
By Order of the Hon'ble Court Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
SA Associates, No.10 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 4th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, BENGALURU (CCH-21)
O.S. No.26544/2020
Between
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007 And its Branch Office at Mythri Centre, No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068 ...Plaintiff
And
Raj Pal ...Defendant
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
To,
Raj Pal,
Aged about 44 years, S/o. Chander, R/a. 20, #3rd Floor, 1st Cross, Nethravathi Layout, Devasandra, KR Puram, Bangalore- 560036
...Defendant
Whereas, the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs. 5,45,056.63/-** as on **28/10/2020** along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court of the 4th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-21] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on **24/01/2023** at **11:00 A.M.** Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this 21st day of October, 2022.
Deputy Registrar City Civil Court Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates, No. 109, Commerce House, 9/1, Cunningham Road, Bangalore - 560052

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXXIII th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-84)
COM O.S. NO. 1410/2022
Hg. 27/01/2023
Between
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M ...Plaintiff
And
M/s. Shreyas Enterprises & Others.
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendants :
1. M/s. Shreyas Enterprises, Represented by its Proprietor G. Ramesh. No. 69, Tyayakanahalli, Bidaraguppe, Anekal, Bengaluru- 562107
2. G. Ramesh, S/o. Gurappa, Aged about 45 Years,
3. Indrani S, W/o. Ramesh. G. D/o. Soundarajan, Aged about 38 Years, Both are Residing at : No. 69, Tyayakanahalli, Bidaraguppe, Anekal, Bengauru- 562107, E-Mail ID: g.ramesh5680@gmail.com
...DEFENDANTS
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 4,61,734.00/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXXXIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-84), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 27/01/2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, on this the 16th December, 2022 at Bangalore.
By Order of theCourt Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXXII ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-83)
COM O.S. NO. 1412/2022
Between
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And
M/s. Vimal Auto Agency & Another ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
To,
Defendants :
a) Vimal Auto Agency, No. 41, BEML 2nd Stage, Ground Floor No.1, Old No. 23 1, Police Station Road, Basavanagudi. Represented by its Proprietor, Mahalingam Vimaleshan. ...PLAINTIFF
b) Mahalingam Vimaleshan, S/o. Mahalingam, Aged about 46 Years, Mytri Tower 106, A Block, Venkatadri Layout, JP Nagar,7th Phase, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560076 ...DEFENDANT
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.7,67,810/- along with interest at the rate of 16.49% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXXXII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.83), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 27/01/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 16th day of December, 2022 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court Assistant Registrar Hone'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru-01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXXIIIth ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-84)
COM O.S NO. 1406/2022
Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And
Om Muruga Traders & Another
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendants :
1. Om Muruga Traders,
Survey No 18/10, Muddayana Palya, Vishawaneedam Post, Bangalore, Karnataka-560091 Represented by its Proprietor Mallika M.
2. Mallika M.
D/o. Kaliyappa, Aged about 52 Years, W/o. K. L. Manikandan, 136, 8th Cross, 2nd Main, Chamarajapet, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560018
3. K.L. Manikandan
S/o. N. K. Lakshmanan, 136, 8th Cross, 2nd Main Chamarajapet, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560018
Where the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 13,53,172.38/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXXXIIIth Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-84), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 27.01.2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 20th day of December, 2022 at Bangalore
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXXIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-84)
COM O.S. NO. 1571/2022
Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And
M/s. Galaxy Traders and Anothers ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendants:
a) M/s. Galaxy Traders,
having its office at-
2 Galaxy Traders, Devara Chikkanahalli, 2nd Cross, Thayappa Garden, Bangalore-560076, Represented by its Proprietor- Nabi Mohammed
b) Nabi Mohammed,
S/o. Shaik Ameer Jan, Aged about 33 Years, Residing at 03,1st Cross Road, Chinapalya, Vinayaka Nagar, Bangalore-560030, Galaxytraders7860@gmail.com
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.9,89,030.45/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXXXIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-84), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 31.01.2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 20th day of December, 2022 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No.701, Queens Corner 'A', 3 Queens Road, Bengaluru-01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXXIV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-85)
COM O.S. NO. 1407/2022
Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, having its head office at and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And :
M/s. Amruth Dental Clinic & Others ...Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendants :
1. Amruth Dental Clinic No. 12/40, Opp. Shamanna Park, 1st Model House Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, represented by its Proprietor - Mr. Lokesh Kumar J.
2. Mr. Lokesh Kumar J. S/o. Venugopal Jonnalagadda, Aged about 44 years. R/at # 68/2, Flat No. 003, Sai Ganesha Nilaya Parappana Agrahara, Electronics City, Bangalore - 560100. Email-ID: 1978JKL@gmail.com
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.16,39,181.59/- along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXXXIV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-85), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 31/01/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this17th day of December, 2022. at Bangalore
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', # 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01

HEALTH

BODY RELAX Msg M/F Incredible Offer. Stress Free , 43, R.P nagar Koramangala Bangalore. Ct: 8148505362

WATER PROOFING

WE-FIX: Leaking Roof, Tank, Sump, Bathroom, Skylight, House Painting, Tiling, Carpentry, Epoxy, Civil Works. 9448572697

BUSINESS OFFERS

INDEX OF BUSINESS OFFERS

AGENTS WANTED
BUSINESS
BUSINESS FOR SALE
CONSULTANTS
FINANCE
IMMIGRATION
IMPORT & EXPORT
INDUSTRIAL
PARTNERSHIPS
SHARES & INVESTMENTS
GENERAL

BUSINESS

WANTED INVESTORS to Start/Expand Business in Australia. Ph: 9787806366

WE PROVIDE the best Investment platform which takes care of your monthly financial commitments. 6381095123

FINANCE

IMMD PERSONAL, Business,Property, Project, NPA Low Interest 7305912765

FINANCE AGAINST Properties Industries & abroad Projects. Ph:09344260264

SHARES / INVESTMENTS

FMCG PVT LTD Company.Welcoming Investors.Monthly Dividend. 7200093975

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Traffic police to soon replace odd-and-even day parking norm with left-side parking rule

During an online live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers, Special Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru, M.A. Saleem said the city's traffic mess was more a parking problem and batted for a comprehensive parking policy

#THTALKSBENGALURU

M A Saleem during the interaction with The Hindu on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The BBMP's multi-level car parking facility at Freedom Park in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Traffic Police will relook at odd and even day parking on either side of the streets in the city and convert all of them to left-side parking every day, said M. A. Saleem, Special Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru.

He was speaking at the #THtalksBengaluru, an online live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers on Saturday, December 24, where he took several questions from the readers on a range of issues from parking woes, law enforcement, public transport and bad roads. "Odd-and-even day parking on either side of the street is a legacy issue. In most places we have removed it, but it continues to be there on certain roads. Ideally, we should switch to parking on only the left side of the road every day. We will take measures to remove odd and even day parking soon," he said.

Parking policy

Mr. Saleem said the city's traffic mess was more a parking problem than one of traffic flow and batted for comprehensive parking policy, drafted by Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and being implemented by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). "When implemented, even the congested old pete area will have a reasonably better traffic flow," he said.

Responding to a question on commercial buildings violating norms and giving up parking space in basements to commercial establishments, he said though it did not come under their jurisdiction, traffic police were open to taking up surveys to identify such violations and assist the civic body in rectifying them, like before.

Multi-level parking

Mr. Saleem added that there was a need for more Multi Level Car Parking (MLCP) complexes in the Central Business District (CBD) area and appealed to the BBMP to build more of them.

"The BMTC has done a wonderful job providing for MLCPs in their Traffic Transit Management Centres (TTMCs) across the city. We need more such MLCPs in the CBD area," he said.

Towing of vehicles

Mr. Saleem also clarified that there were no plans to bring back towing of wrongly parked vehicles in the city.

"There are adequate means to handle wrong parking without towing. For instance, we have begun registering regular FIRs under Section 283 of IPC for footpath parking and driving. Under this case, the vehicles will be seized and the owner has to take it back only from the court.

"We have booked at least 3,000 cases over the past couple of months and expect this to create deterrence and discipline soon," he said.

Survey on revival of Safe Route To School project likely from next year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ever since schools opened their doors this year for physical classes, there have been many complaints about traffic snarls during the opening and closing hours of schools.

Addressing many such complaints while in conversation with *The Hindu* on Saturday as part of #THtalksBengaluru, Special Commissioner (Traffic) M.A. Saleem said Safe Route To School (SRTS) will now be extended even to residential areas along with the Central Business District (CBD) areas and will likely be revived completely by the beginning of the next academic year.

A community project, the SRTS was introduced by Mr. Saleem during his first term as the traffic chief of the city in collaboration with Education and Transport Department. The project held decongestion of traffic and safety of students as top priorities. To implement the project on a wider scale now, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has already started its preliminary survey.

"We are surveying the number of children coming to each school, their mode of transport and if there is any space inside the school's premises to accommodate private vehicles rather than have them waiting on the road," Mr. Saleem said. He added that a meeting with all stakeholders will be held after the survey.

Pointing out that the main reason for congestion in CBD during the opening and closing hours of schools is parents' preference to send their children to old and prestigious schools in the area, Mr. Saleem said it is ideal to have schools in residential areas. "In Bengaluru, we have 2,800 schools. For children's convenience, it is ideal for schools to be closer to their homes so that they can walk in a safe manner without the need for any kind of transportation," he said.

A file photo of school vans and buses parked on Residency Road in Bengaluru.

More traffic lights to be installed in newly added areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Traffic management in an ever-growing city remains quite a challenge for the traffic police. With more and more rural areas being added to the BBMP limits, the demand has also grown from such areas for better traffic regulation, traffic lights and signages.

Mr. M. A. Saleem, Special Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru, assured, during the live chat on Saturday that such areas will be the points of focus in the near future.

"We are going to have some more traffic signals, particularly on the outskirts.

For example, on Sarjapur Road, we want to have two more traffic lights at junctions. Similarly, in areas like Bagalagunte, Magadi Road, Mysuru Road, and Kumbalgodu, in the south areas beyond J.P. Nagar, like Sarakki, traffic has increased to a large extent and we will be focussing on them," he explained.

The BTP also recently announced that four new traffic police stations will be set up in Hennur, Thalagattapura, Bellandur, and Mahadevapura.

New pre-paid auto stands to come up at metro stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Considering the key role efficient autorickshaw services play in reducing traffic congestion, M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner (Traffic), said the police are now focusing on reviving pre-paid auto stands which were shut down during the pandemic. "Out of the 16 old pre-paid stands, we have already revived three – MG Road, Kempegowda Bus Stand and Sampige Road.

Additionally, the BMRCL is also planning to create six new auto stands," he said. The auto stands will come up in places like commercial areas, bus stands and hospitals where people use autorickshaw services the most, Mr. Saleem added.

Out of the 16 old pre-paid stands, three have been revived.

Readers had also sought solutions from the traffic chief for the "autorickshaw menace" in the city.

Mr. Saleem said if any citizens faced harassment from auto drivers, they could make use of BTP's special helpline number (080-22868444/22868550) or Whatsapp number to complain.

Entry, exit points for layouts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

If all the residents of a particular locality agree, they can coordinate with the civic body, and keep only one or two entry and exit points to the area and close the rest, said M.A. Saleem.

"There are complaints of residential layouts being taken over by traffic. In many cases, cabs and schools buses are parked in residential bylanes. We can restrict the entry and exit points to the residential layout to one or two, which will prevent others from entering the locality. But all the residents of the area should agree to this," he said.

Bus stops to be relocated 100 metres away from junctions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Right from the notorious Silk Board junction to many other locations in the city, BMTC buses halting to onboard people have proven to be a problem.

The same concern was raised by many readers of *The Hindu*.

Answering their questions, Mr. Saleem said steps are being taken to relocate such bus stops to 100 metres before or after the junction.

"Bus stops are a major issue wherever they are situated near junctions. Along with shifting their location, we are also actively sending people to the designated new bus stops as generally buses stop where people come and stand. This will help in reducing congestion near junctions," he said.

Bus priority lane

Mr. Saleem also said once Namma Metro work is completed, the previous bus priority lane from Silk Board to Hebbal will open again, and Metro complemented by bus priority lane will provide the much-needed boost for public transport.

After pandemic-induced slump, tourism sector sees revival

REWIND 2022

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

After taking severe blows for the better part of two years due to the pandemic, the tourism sector made a strong comeback in the State in 2022, as "revenge tourism" in full form.

Statistics provided by the Tourism Department showed that between January and October this year, over 14 crore domestic tourists and over 50,000 foreign tourists visited the State. While this only takes into consideration the ticketed tourist destinations, private operators also reported a surge in bookings to Karnataka.

Hygiene in focus

A dominant trends observed this year was customers' demands about hygiene and safety during travel. "Travellers took into consideration the hygiene and safety standards along with flexibility in bookings before finalising their travel plans," said Nishant Pitti, CEO and Co-Founder, EaseMyTrip. Wellness tourism was among noteworthy travel trends of the year 2022.

This year, from receiving a record number of tourists during summer vacation and Dasara season and the reintroduction of the luxury train Golden Chariot to some of the highest occupancy rates in Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) and Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) properties, and the discovery of unexplored destinations, the sector had a lot going for it.

JLR properties have earned around ₹86 crores in revenue this year. The year also saw the emergence of many new accommodation spaces like hotels and homestays.

Tourists at Thottikallu Falls, also known as Swarna Mukhi, off Kanakapura Road. K. MURALI KUMAR

"In Karnataka, during the tough period of the lockdown, prices of hotels and resorts had on average fallen to about half and now they have gone up by that much from base and that's a swift 2X increase. The luxury segment, especially, has seen a record year with not just peak occupancy, but also highest ADRs (average daily rates). We have also seen the emergence of several new hotels and resorts in destinations like Chikkamagaluru, Sakleshpur, Shivamogga and the Udupi regions, to name a few. This has been really encouraging as traffic went beyond Mysuru-Kabini-Kodagu circuit," said Sanjar Imam, President, Karnataka Tourism Forum. In February, the hyped 23-kilometre Nandi ropeway project, which had been in the pipeline for years, was approved by the Cabinet. During the Budget of 2022-23, over ₹300 crore were earmarked to be used on developing basic infrastructure facilities, hotels and ropeways in tourist destinations. Pavitra Yatre, a scheme operated by KSTDC to enable tours to pilgrimage centres was also announced in the budget. The government opted for Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for many projects.

This year, tourism roadshows also made a comeback on a larger scale as the department and KSTDC went around the country to promote the tourism destinations. Among things which made a comeback was also the KSTDC's luxury train, Golden Chariot, which set out on its first journey on November 20 and reported a 46% occupancy, better than its earlier average.

Summer surge

As international flights resumed on March 27, summer saw a drastic surge of tourism this year with respect to both inbound and outbound travel.

While many were eager to fly off to destinations like Maldives, Thailand and Singapore, others traveled within the country to Goa, Kashmir and neighbouring Kerala the most.

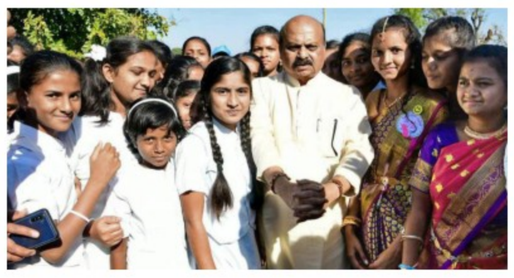
Within the State, Mangaluru, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Hampi and Bandipur were the popular destinations during the period.

With international travel on the rise, those who traveled by air also increased this year. Data from KAYAK, a travel search engine, showed that flight searches from airports in India (between April - November 2022) increased by about 204% compared to 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

Inbound tourists of the State, both domestic and foreign, mostly visited traditional destinations like Hampi, Badami, Mysuru, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru. With many preferring to stay close to open, natural destinations, locations like Bandipur, Kabini and Nagarahole received a great number of tourists. JLR properties in Bandipur and Kabini ran on an average of 83% and 84% occupancy this year.

World renowned Mysuru Dasara was also back to its former glory this year. Private tour operators had reported around 40% increase in bookings to Mysuru during the time and most properties were running on a 100% occupancy.

INBRIEF



State Budget to be presented in February

The State Budget for 2023-24 will be tabled in February and already two rounds of discussions have been held with the Finance Department in this regard, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday.

After the Belagavi session, talks will be held with all the departments and associations/organisations. Pre-budget meeting will be started next month, Mr. Bommai said at Shiggaon on Saturday. He was in his constituency to inaugurate a slew of projects.

Devi Prasad Shetty appointed chairperson of IIMB board

At a special meeting held recently, the board of governors of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, upon the recommendation of the search-cum-selection committee, appointed Devi Prasad Shetty, chairman and senior consultant cardiac surgeon, Narayana Group of Hospitals, Bengaluru, as chairperson of the IIM Bangalore board of governors for a period of four years. He has been elected for the second time for the post. Dr. Shetty has accepted the appointment, stated a release.

Raji Srinivasan, Sam Barshop Centennial Professor of Marketing Administration, McCombs School of Business, University of Texas, Austin, U.S.; Malavika Harita, founder and CEO, Brand Circle and former CEO of Saatchi Focus India; and Mukesh Bansal, CEO of Curefit and founder of Meraki Labs, also recently joined the IIMB board. The 15-member board of governors includes accomplished alumni of the institute and eminent persons from business, government and society, the release stated.

Testing of international passengers starts; designated hospitals yet to be activated

State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee to discuss the issue at its meeting today and recommend protocols; according to Centre's guidelines, passengers found to be symptomatic during screening at the airport should be swabbed and immediately isolated at a designated medical facility

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Although thermal screening and 2% random testing of international travellers began at the airports on Saturday following the Centre's guidelines, there are several gaps in the protocols that need to be followed after symptomatic international passengers leave the airport. As of now, the State has not activated any designated hospitals to isolate international passengers who test positive.

Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will discuss this issue at its next meeting on Sunday and recommend protocols.

During the emergence of the Omicron variant, Karnataka had identified Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institution (Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College Hospital) in Bengaluru and Wenlock District Hospital in Mangaluru as designated facilities for isolation. Besides, some private hospitals too had set aside isolation facilities.

According to the Centre's guidelines issued on Thursday, passengers found to be symptomatic during screening at the airport should be swabbed and immediately isolated at a designated medical facility.

The Health Commissioner said although Bowring and Wenlock hospitals will remain the designated facilities for symptomatic and positive passengers, they would be activated based on further guidelines from the Centre and the TAC.

Loud and clear: A BBMP marshal creating awareness on the need to wear mask in Bengaluru. PTI

Two percent testing

To minimise the risk of entry of new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to India, the Centre has directed all airports to start testing of 2% of the total passengers on a flight on arrival. "... They will be allowed to leave the airport after giving the samples. If such travellers' samples are tested positive, their samples should be further sent for genomic testing at INSACOG laboratory network. They should be treated/isolated as per the standard protocol," the guidelines stated.

"The risk of spreading the infection is high if a symptomatic person goes home and later tests positive, like what happened with international travellers in the first wave. It will be difficult to trace the contacts and isolate them," said a TAC source.

In the absence of laid down protocols for the current scenario, the question is whether the same protocols that were followed for Omicron will still be relevant to the new circumstances, a doctor from a government hospital said. "The new variant of Omicron, BF.7, is known to be highly transmissible with R value (reproduction rate) of 10-18.6, which means an infected person can transmit the virus to an average of 10 to 18.6 people. The incubation period is also short and hence there is an urgent need to set up isolation facilities," he said.

Besides, the guidelines exempt children aged under 12 from post-arrival random testing. "After arriving if they are symptomatic or during the period of self-monitoring, they should undergo testing as per protocol. If they test positive, they should be isolated and monitored and obviously they will have to go with their parents or guardians," he added.

Guidelines for New Year celebrations will be issued soon: CM

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said guidelines would be issued soon for New Year celebration, while appealing to the people not to panic over the reported new wave of COVID-19.

He told presspersons in Hubballi that Health and Revenue Ministers would be convening a meeting on the issue on Sunday. Steps would be taken to organise camps at taluk and district levels to administer booster doses, he said.

Mr. Bommai said steps would be taken to conduct tests, apart from making testing mandatory for ILI and SARI cases. Measures would also be taken to ensure wearing of masks, physical distancing, and other steps.

No early polls

To a query, Mr. Bommai clarified that the government was not mulling over holding early elections to the Legislative Assembly.

"We are trying to reach out to the people with our programmes so far and based on the same we will try to get a mandate," he said.

Mocking the Congress, the Chief Minister said the party was apprehensive that its internal bickering might increase if there was more time for the elections and that was why its leaders were giving a message of early polls to the workers, he said.

Bommai likely to visit Delhi to discuss reservation and Cabinet expansion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

He has scheduled a meeting with Central leaders tomorrow evening

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will likely visit New Delhi to consult the BJP central leadership on a host of issues, including the reservation demand of Panchamasali subsect of Lingayats and the Cabinet expansion.

He will also discuss with the Union Law Minister the issue of inclusion of the Bill hiking reservation for SCs and STs in the State, breaching the cap of 50%, under the IX Schedule of the Constitution of India, sources said. The Bill has been tabled in the legislature at the ongoing session in Belagavi.

The Chief Minister has sought an appointment with Central leaders and has scheduled the meeting to Monday evening, sources said.

"The issue of a better reservation share for Panchamasali subsect of Lingayats is a tricky issue as any manoeuvring within the existing matrix may end up antagonising several other electorally key communities. It is a big political decision to be taken by the high command, especially, given the Assembly elections are fast approaching," a source close to the Chief Minister said.

Following an interim report submitted by the Karnataka Permanent Backward Classes Commission, the State Cabinet had deliberated on the issue and formulated various options. "There are three or four options suggested, of which one will likely be finalised in consultation with the high command," the source said.

Disgruntled leaders

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister is learnt to have given an assurance to disgruntled former Ministers K.S. Eshwarappa and Ramesh Jarkiholi of their induction into the Cabinet shortly, prompting them to attend the ongoing winter session on Friday, which they had boycotted in protest.

There are six vacant berths in the Cabinet and the Chief Minister is lobbying to expand his Ministry and induct several new faces from electorally key communities apart from the two former Ministers. The issue would come up during the Chief Minister's meeting with party president J.P. Nadda, whose appointment he has sought, sources said.

CAT vacation for two days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

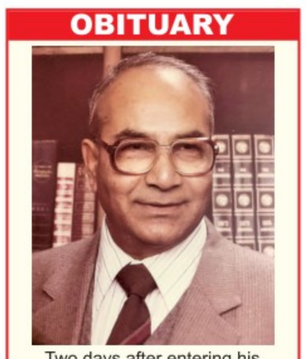
The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Bangalore Bench, Bengaluru, will have the fifth spell of vacation for two days from Monday, according to a notification.

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka - Reg Autonous Institute)
Phone : 08272-220606 Website : www.kimskodagu.kar.nic.in
Ref: No. ME/2022-23/IND: Date: 23-12-2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Under signed invites e-tender notification in two Bid system from eligible tenderrers through e-procurement portal GOK, for the repair of Electric Geaser installed at Hostels. The applications can be downloaded from **23.12.2022,** last date for up load is **07.01.2023,** for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned
Sd/- Director & Dean
Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences,
e-mail: directormckodagu@gmail.com Madikeri

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



Two days after entering his centennial year, Professor
M. LAKSHMANAN
(Central College, UNESCO)
passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, December 20, 2022.
An avid reader, profound thinker, philanthropist and an amazing soul.
He will be deeply missed and mourned by family, friends and students all over the world.

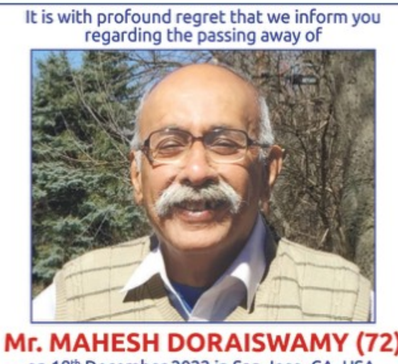
BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

DR. EMMA GONSALVEZ
1932 - 2014
Loved & Remembered forever
Her family

DEATH

It is with profound regret that we inform you regarding the passing away of



Mr. MAHESH DORAISWAMY (72)
on 18th December 2022 in San Jose, CA, USA.
Alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi and IIM Calcutta, Mahesh was at heart an academician, and retired as Professor at SSN School of Management, Chennai.
He will be fondly remembered by his family as a loving husband, doting father, affectionate grandfather, kind father-in-law, a dear brother and above all, a compassionate man.
Dasasthu (10th day ceremonies) on 27th December 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our Client intends to purchase Agricultural Property more fully described in the schedule hereunder (Schedule Property) from its owner **Sri. Venkatesha** S/o. Late. Kenchathimmaiah, aged about 45 years, Residing at No. 23 / 1, Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagar District.
If anybody has any charge, lien, interest or title or claim or agreement on the Schedule Property they should comfort with copies of Documents in support of such claim and produce the same to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this Public Notice. In the event, no such legally tenable claim is received, our client shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property as if no such claims exist or that they have been waived or abandoned.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ITEM No. 1:
All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Property bearing Sy. No. 232/2, measuring 3 acres 15 guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and bounded on the:
East by: Property of Sri Suryaprakash,
West by: Road, North by: Road,
South by: Property belongs to Sri. M.R.B.Nagaraju.
Date: 25.12.2022
Place: Bangalore
Sd/-
UNITED SOLICITORS LAW FIRM,
No. 107, 3rd Floor, 8th C Main, Opp. Jain Temple, 4th Block, Jayanagar (West) Bangalore-560011, 080-26640085.

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF
DITI METAL FORMING PRIVATE LIMITED

1	NAME OF CORPORATE PERSON	DITI METAL FORMING PRIVATE LIMITED
2	DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE PERSON	05/08/2009
3	AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PERSON IS INCORPORATED/ REGISTERED	ROC-Bangalore
4	CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER / LIMITED LIABILITY IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE PERSON	U28112KA2009PTC050554
5	ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE PERSON	C-16, Kudremukh Colony Koramangala II Block Bangalore KA 560034 IN
6	LIQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE PERSON	23/12/2022
7	NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LIQUIDATOR, AUTHORISATION FOR ASSIGNMENT (AFA) Validity	CS THIRUPAL GORIGE No. 87, 2nd Floor, 21st Cross, 7th Main, N S. Palya, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560076, Karnataka, India CELL +91 94483 84064, LL +080 7963 4233 EMAIL: GTHIRUPAL@GMAIL.COM IP REGISTRATION NO. IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00016/2016-17/10030 AFA valid upto 08-06-2023
8	LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS	22/01/2023

Notice is hereby given that **Diti Metal Forming Private Limited** has commenced voluntary liquidation on 23/12/2022.
The stakeholders of **Diti Metal Forming Private Limited** are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 22.01.2023 to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.
The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means.
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.
Sd/-
Date: 23.12.2022 Shri. Thirupal Gorige,
Place: Bangalore Liquidator

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/216/217 TELE FAX:080-26534477
e-mail: director@jayadevacardiology.com/pstodirectorsjicr@gmail.com/pe.sjicrblr@gmail.com

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for the following items in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka:

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No. & Date	Particulars
1	SJICR/TS/115 /2022-23 dt. 24-12-2022	Providing, fabricating and construction of shelters to Doctors/Public Car parking area using MS structures and Galvalume Iron sheet roof and other allied works adjacent to Food Court at SJIC&R Hospital premises, K.R.S. Road, Mysuru.
2	SJICR/TS/116 /2022-23 dt. 24-12-2022	Providing and Construction of BBM compound wall with SSM foundation including dismantling the existing dilapidated compound wall and allied works at western side of the SJIC&R Hospital premises, K.R.S. Road, Mysuru.
3	SJICR/TS/117/2022-23 dt. 24-12-2022	Providing fabricating and Construction of retail stall for HOPCOMS using M.S and composite structure and allied works at SJIC&R Hospital premises, K.R.S. Road, Mysuru.
4	SJICR/TS/118/2022-23 dt. 24-12-2022	Providing and construction of Cement concrete pavement road and allied works at East, West and North side of Infosys Foundation and SJIC&R block at SJIC&R Premises, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru.

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **30-12-2022** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **30-01-2023 upto 4-00 PM.**
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting: **17-01-2023 at 11-30 AM.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: **31-01-2023 at 4-00 PM.**
4. **EMD:** as mentioned in the tender document
5. For further details, please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
6. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer.

Around 7,000 diploma students benefit from 'make-up exam'

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of Technical Education has introduced a "make-up exam" for diploma students in all polytechnic colleges in the State to ensure that every student gets a second chance to be promoted to the next class. The make-up exam is similar to supplementary exam which was earlier not an option for diploma students.

This exam was conducted for the first time this year and as many as 7,000 students were promoted to the next class. As many as 27,000 had enrolled for the exam.

The department has introduced 'Diploma C-20 Syllabus' for polytechnic students and they study around 11 subjects a year. According to this syllabus regulations, for a candidate to be eligible for promotion from the even semester to the odd semester (to the next academic year), she/he should not have failed in more than four subjects of the lower semesters. For example, a candidate seeking eligibility for the third semester should not have failed in more than four subjects of the first and second semesters put together to avoid being detained. Make-up exam helps such students.

The exam is conducted during the even semester and odd semester break (summer vacation), for the failed candidates, immediately after the regular examination results are out.

N. Ravichandran, Director, Technical Education Department, told *The Hindu*: "Around 25% of students enrolled for the exam are eligible for the odd semesters now."

Mental health helpline gets 20,000 calls in two months

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (MANAS), a toll-free 24/7 number (14416) that was launched on October 10 on World Mental Health Day by the Union government, has received over 20,000 calls to date, reported the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB).

While stress, sleep disorders and anxiety have been the main issues for which help is being sought, the highest number of calls have been received from Tamil Nadu (3,631).

Based on the Karnataka government's e-Manas service, which was launched during the first wave of COVID-19, Tele Manas under the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) now has 24 States and Union Territories on board, and provides basic support and counselling along with emergency psychiatric facilities. While the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) was appointed as the nodal centre for the helpline, IIITB has been providing technical support for it.

IIITB told *The Hindu* that a team of around 20 people, mostly from software engineering and the E-Health research centre, headed by Principal Investigator Professor T.K. Srikanth, are involved in the technical design and support of Tele Manas. "We have a dedicated team to support the project technologically to serve people from any part of the country. Privacy and security have been taken care of at present (with encryption of data) and will continue to remain one of the major focus areas," Debabrata Das, Director, IIITB, said.

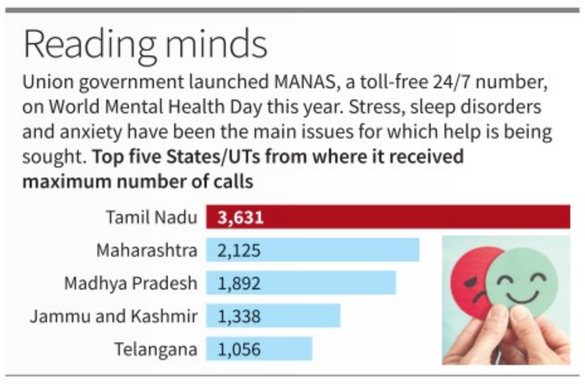
The data also showed that people in the age group of 18-45 years called the helpline the most.

Emergency cases

Apart from the aforementioned issues, emergency cases were also dealt with by the e-counsellors through the helpline, IIITB said.

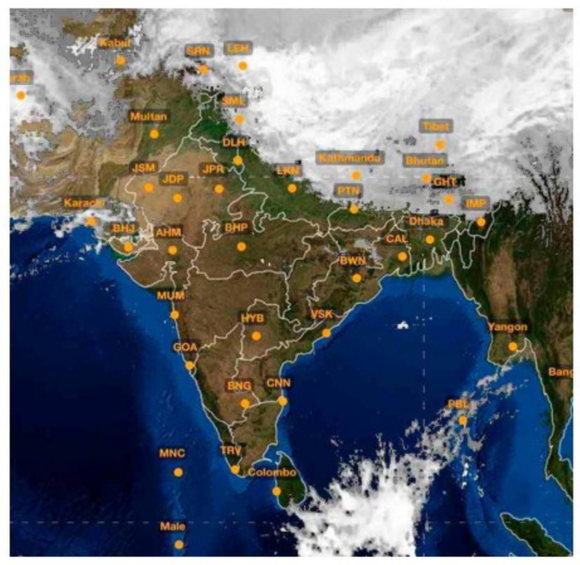
Apart from Tamil Nadu, places such as Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Telangana were the top regions from where more people reached out to the helpline, according to the recorded data.

NIMHANS is also conducting training for counsellors and plans to advertise the helpline. "We have not advertised about the facility aggressively yet, as we first want to develop adequate capacity across State Tele Manas cells to provide quality support to the callers. Once a demand is created, it becomes imperative to provide quality services. Once full-time counsellors are hired and trained, we will actively advertise Tele Manas facilities to reach out to persons across the country," Dr. Pratima Murthy, Director, NIMHANS, said.



WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over south coastal Tamil Nadu. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana and Delhi

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.9	12.2	Kozhikode	—	34.0	22.2
Ahmedabad	—	26.5	10.0	Kurnool	—	32.5	17.2
Aizawl	—	—	8.2	Lucknow	0.6	25.4	14.4
Allahabad	—	26.5	10.2	Madurai	—	34.0	22.6
Bengaluru	—	29.0	14.0	Mangaluru	—	33.1	19.3
Bhopal	—	30.0	13.8	Mumbai	—	30.0	16.0
Bhubaneswar	—	31.7	12.4	Mysuru	—	30.0	12.6
Chandigarh	—	16.3	3.7	New Delhi	—	20.0	5.4
Chennai	—	30.1	23.2	Patna	—	24.4	14.4
Coimbatore	—	32.5	19.4	Port Blair	—	30.4	26.2
Dehradun	—	21.9	7.0	Puducherry	—	30.4	20.8
Gangtok	—	15.6	8.6	Pune	—	32.6	15.6
Goa	—	32.5	19.6	Raipur	—	32.5	15.2
Guwahati	—	26.6	13.6	Ranchi	—	28.1	11.6
Hubballi	—	32.0	15.0	Shillong	—	16.3	6.9
Hyderabad	—	30.5	16.6	Shimla	—	11.5	1.0
Imphal	—	24.3	7.1	Srinagar	—	11.0	-5.4
Jaipur	—	22.1	10.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.5	23.2
Kochi	—	31.0	24.0	Tiruchi	—	31.9	22.0
Kohima	—	18.0	6.2	Vijayawada	—	29.8	16.8
Kolkata	—	27.0	13.9	Visakhapatnam	—	30.0	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.33	125	.27	.....	.....	.....
Bengaluru	...8	8	.64	...163	...106	.....
Chennai	.22	..57	.44	...290	...173	.....
Delhi	.14	105	.99	...341	...299	.....
Hyderabad	.16	..11	104	...136	...143	.....
Kolkata	...6	..41	.62	...321	...219	.....
Lucknow	.20	..64	107	...260	...205	.....
Mumbai	.82	..43	.53	...282	...171	.....
Pune	..—	..—	..—	.....	.....	.....
Visakhapatnam	.37	..38	.34	...212	...145	.....

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

After face-off, no Mass at St. Mary's basilica in Kerala

Decision made after clash between two groups of the faithful over celebration of the Mass; they damaged church properties, leading to the police entering the church to maintain law and order

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

There will be no midnight Mass to ring in Christmas at the St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese of the Syro-Malabar Church after a confrontation between two groups of the faithful regarding celebration of the Mass led into fisticuffs on Friday evening. The fracas continued on Saturday.

According to sources, the basilica will remain open, but there will be no Mass until the quarrelling parties reached a consensus on the issue.

Tough measure: Police inside the St. Mary's church attached to the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese. B. MURALIKRISHNAN

The two groups got into a violent clash on Saturday and damaged church properties, leading to the police entering the church to maintain law and order. Senior priest Kuriakose Mundadan, who is also the secretary of the council of priests of the archdiocese, said the decision was taken after senior officials met the groups supporting and opposing the synodal Mass. The quarrel in the archdiocese over the Mass got murkier on Friday with allegations that those supporting the synodal Mass system manhandled their rivals supporting a fully people-facing Mass.

Eleven priests – celebrating the fully people-facing Mass – were injured in the melee, claimed Riju Kanjookkaran, a leader of the lay people's forum Alamaya Munnettam.

CPI(M) 'rectification circular' against elitism sparks row

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] 'rectification document' flagging the need to radically address the ills of elite politics in the party, primarily "degenerate bourgeoisie inclinations" such as profiteering and nepotism, seems to have prised open a Pandora's box of "fratricidal and sensationalist" tit-for-tat accusations targeting the party hierarchy at different levels. CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan told the media recently that the party had circulated the document at all levels of the organisation to effect a 'course correction.'

The circular appears to have set leaders and activists against one another, including those in the Students Federation of India and the Democratic Youth Federation of India, both CPI(M) affiliates.

The CPI(M) had survived a decade-long upheaval caused by factional feuding. Some in the party were worried whether the State committee's resolve to root out elitism and corruption would lead to the targeting of party members for personal and apolitical reasons and a return to the tumultuous days of factional feuding.

7,000 birds being culled to check avian flu in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

As many as 7,000 birds are being culled in Kerala's Kottayam district following an outbreak of bird flu that has now spread to more parts of the district, authorities have said.

The presence of the avian influenza virus (H5N1) was confirmed in two duck farms in Arpookara and Neendoor and a broiler chicken farm in Vechoor here recently.

The Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) of the Animal Husbandry department have culled 2,753 ducks in Neendoor panchayat.

Floral treat

Visual treat: As part of the Mysuru Winter Festival, a flower show is being held on the palace premises. The festival, inaugurated on Saturday, is being held to attract and promote tourism. It will be on till January 2. M.A. SRIRAM

'Convictions in crimes against women and children have increased manifold in A.P.'

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The 'conviction-based policing' initiated by the Andhra Pradesh Police has been yielding promising results in the last six months as the number of convictions has increased manifold.

The number of convictions in the cases pertaining to crime against women and children had increased from 25 in 2021 to 134 in 2022, Director General of Police K. V. Rajendranath Reddy said in an official release on Saturday.

Of the 134 convictions, 90 pertained to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act) and 44 were rape and women murder cases, he said.

As part of the initiative taken up in July 2022, all the unit heads – Superintendents of Police and Commissioners of Police – were asked to pick five most important and sensitive cases in their units and closely monitor the trial progress on a daily basis, the DGP said.

Due to the involvement of the officers at every level, from unit heads to constables, cases were dealt in a transparent manner and witness protection was given high priority, leaving no scope for delay in trial, Mr. Rajendranath Reddy said.

As per the release, out of the 90 convictions and judgments under the POCSO Act, one was a death sentence, 42 were life imprisonments, and 11 were jail term awarded for 16 to 20 years and nine for a term of 10 to 15 years.

In 2021, the accused in only 21 POCSO cases had been convicted and in 2020, the number was only 30, while it was 61 in 2019, 53 in 2018, 34 in 2017, 28 in 2016, 20 in 2015 and seven in 2014.

Bengal Santa completes revelry in Kerala

'Santa Claus' backed out of a parish carol party in Kochi at the last minute. The unit members came up with a solution of asking 19-year-old Souvik Mallick from West Bengal to don the role

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Let's hire a Bengali' is one of the oft-repeated phrases when there aren't enough people to field a cricket team or for a task for which local people are unlikely to volunteer. It is an admission of how migrant workers, of which Bengalis are a considerable lot, dominate the labour scene in Kerala.

Now, Souvik Mallick, a 19-year-old from Chandipur in Purba Bardhaman district of West Bengal, has entered an uncharted terrain, dressing up as Santa Claus for the carol visit of a family unit of the Thevakkal parish of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church.

New role: Souvik Mallick from West Bengal dressed up as Santa.

"Originally, a local resident was supposed to don the role of Santa Claus, but he backed out at the last minute. That's when a family unit member Tinson Tomy, a contractor, came up with the idea of asking someone from his pool of migrant workers," said Sherry Thomas, president of the family unit.

Mr. Tomy broached the matter with Souvik who had joined his elder brother Sisir Mallick here only a year ago.

"We mostly take contract of constructing homes and he (Souvik) has always been very friendly with the families. So, when I told him about visiting homes as Santa Claus, he readily agreed," said Mr. Tomy.

Having no previous experience of being part of a carol team, Souvik had to be taught a few Santa steps. "We showed him a few YouTube videos of carol. He was told that just a few jigs would suffice," said Mr. Thomas. After the initial jitters, Souvik turned out to be a natural. His carol team visited 24 households over two days.

Artists blame Biennale Foundation for lapses and lack of transparency

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Over 50 invited artists of the 2022-23 edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB) in an open letter blamed the Kochi Biennale Foundation (KBF) for its shoddy planning, poor communication, and confusion following the delayed deployment of production staff, taking a toll on their creative efforts.

"Our overall analysis, drawn from many individual experiences, is that the way the KMB is currently organised hinders the artistic process, and closes opportunities for artists rather than enabling them. Concerns have been present in past editions as well, but they have become greater in this 2022-23 edition," said the letter signed by 53 invited artists for the fifth edition of the KMB.

Messy affairs: The Kochi Biennale souvenir shop on the Aspinwall House campus in Fort Kochi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The last-minute postponement of the main exhibition had irked the artists.

They pointed out that the KBF should have made the decision to postpone it weeks earlier, "when many of the failures were already apparent, well before thousands of art lovers travelled for the opening day, and most artists themselves had to return and could not stay on to see their own work installed or engage with the work of fellow artists and visitors".

The artists blamed the organisers for poor communication as they did not receive replies to phone calls and emails over the course of months leading to the opening of the Biennale.

KBF to file reply

While there are excellently organised events of this scale in Kerala, the Biennale Foundation has constantly shifted blame around rather than identifying and addressing actual causes, according to the artists. The KBF representatives said they would submit a detailed reply to the concerns raised.

From Page One

Purse seines come with a divisive catch

"It is the best and most efficient gear to catch small, shoaling, sea fish. The controversy against using this gear is due to jealousy in certain quarters," said Sunil Mohamed, former principal scientist of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). "On the eastern coast, this method was not used earlier. A boat which uses purse seine gear will be full of fish and this may have created some jealousy and concern among others that if this continues, the fish stock availability will end very soon." Mr. Mohamed said the advantage of the purse seine method is that it does not exploit other species, since it focuses on shoaling fishes only.

However, he added a note of caution, warning that without regulation, the concerns of traditional fish workers would not be addressed. "Of course, there should be regulation and it is up to the government to manage the fishing boats and equipment. Automatic identification systems can be established to identify the boats engaged in fishing. Purse seine gear can create concern only if it is used without any control. The number of boats sent for fishing should be decided based on the availability of fish," he said. Asked about the declining sardine population, he insisted that it had nothing to do with a specific fishing gear. "It came down between 2014 and 2021. But in 2022, it has been revived. Fishing methods are similar worldwide, but regulation is important," Mr. Mohamed added.

'Release expert committee report'

Trade unions working among fish workers urged the Centre to release the expert committee report that it depended on to prepare its affidavit against the ban. "There is no one view among fish workers on this issue. It is for the government to take a decision on this. The Centre has not revealed the details of the expert committee on purse seine fishing yet," said Trade Union Centre of India general secretary Charles George. "The concerns of the traditional fish workers should be addressed and they can be addressed only if the expert committee report is made available to the trade unions and State governments." Noting that different States had different stances on the ban, he said that it was natural that fish workers, especially those who use traditional gear, would have problems with purse seine users.

S. Prabhakaran, working chairman of the National Association of Fishermen, said that his organisation has supported the lifting of the ban. "Rather than banning, the government should bring in certain regulations. Those who don't use mechanised boats and use small boats should be allowed to operate within five nautical miles. But in the deep sea, it should be permitted to catch shoaling fishes using purse seines," he said. "It is an internationally used scientific method. There should be sufficient debate. The community must be taught about this system. We are sure that a court verdict will help us in finding a solution," he added.

Detrimental to marine resources: Kerala

Both the Kerala and Tamil Nadu governments have decided to file petitions in the Supreme Court on the matter. Kerala Fisheries Minister V. Abdurahiman told *The Hindu* that the State would oppose purse seine fishing. "Fishing is a State subject and the management plan for marine fisheries in territorial waters is the job of the State. Purse seine is a non-targeted fishing gear and catches all sorts of fish which come in the way of the net, including juveniles. Hence, they are very much detrimental to marine resources," he said.

Tamil Nadu State Commissioner of Fisheries K.S. Palanisamy said the State would adopt a stand and file an affidavit in the Supreme Court as well.

Currently, the ban on purse seine fishing is implemented in the territorial waters of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Odisha, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands up to 12 nautical miles.

States such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, West Bengal have not imposed any such ban, while Maharashtra has issued some orders to regulate, but not ban purse seine fishing in its territorial waters.

RT-PCR report must for flyers from 4 countries

Availability of essential drugs, ventilators, bilevel positive airway pressure machines or BIPAPs, SPO2 kits, personal protective equipment (PPE) kits and N-95 masks as well as medical oxygen infrastructure such as oxygen concentrators, cylinders, PSA plants, liquid medical oxygen storage tanks, medical gas pipeline systems will also have to be ensured.

The mock drill will be conducted under the supervision of District Collectors or Magistrates, along with officers of the respective health departments of the States.

Oxygen control rooms

The facility-wise data for all districts will have to be uploaded by the District Surveillance Officer in coordination with the the Chief Medical Health Officer.

Additional Secretary in the Health Ministry, Manohar Agnani, also sent a separate letter to the States and the Union Territories, asking them to reinvigorate oxygen control rooms as well as onboard health facilities utilising oxygen on the Oxygen Demand Aggregation System to enable monitoring of daily medical oxygen demand and consumption.

Mathura court orders survey of Shahi Idgah mosque premises

This order pertains to one of over a dozen petitions pending in the civil courts of Mathura on the dispute; the civil court has asked officials to submit reports by January 20

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A civil court in Mathura has ordered a survey of the Shahi Idgah Masjid and sought a report on the same by January 20, in one of the petitions related to the Shahi Idgah mosque-Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple dispute.

Civil Judge (Senior Division) Sonika Verma passed the order earlier this week on a civil suit filed by Hindu Sena president Vishnu Gupta and its vice-president Surjit Yadav.

The Hindu Sena claims that the mosque was built on the site where Lord Krishna was born. R. V. MOORTHY

Directive to officers

The suit, filed on December 8, sought possession of the site at which the mosque stands and the removal of the Shahi Idgah mosque.

The Mathura court has now directed the court officers to visit the disputed premises and conduct a survey of the area.

The court officers have been asked to submit a report with site plans and maps before the court by January 20, when the petition will be taken up next.

'Illegal agreement'

The Hindu Sena chief's suit claimed that the Shahi Idgah mosque was built allegedly on the site where Lord Krishna was purportedly born, and sought that the agreement between the Shri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sangh and the Shahi Idgah Masjid Committee in 1968 be cancelled, calling it illegal.

The argument presented is that the temple trust did not have the power to act against the interest of the people belonging to the faith and against the interest of the deity.

This is one of over a dozen petitions pending in the civil courts of Mathura with regards to the Shahi Idgah-Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple dispute.

The order comes on the back of the decision of a Varanasi court on more than one occasion that the Hindu plaintiffs' suit in the Gyanvapi dispute was maintainable.

Seeks support

Reacting to the order in Mathura district, Alok Kumar, working president of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), said, "Similarly, in the Gyanvapi case, the survey was ordered and carried out. Even the Supreme Court (SC) had not granted them a stay on it. So, we believe this order will now be complied with. I would say that all those who have nothing to hide and who do not fear the truth would support this."

Hindu Sena chief Vishnu Gupta said, "We have submitted that we believe there is evidence within the mosque premises of Shahi Idgah that shows a temple predating it and we are confident the survey will bring out the truth."

Assam govt. not seeking details of conversion: CM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Special Branch had issued a letter to SPs asking them to submit reports on Christian activities

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday distanced himself from a purported official letter seeking information from all Superintendents of Police (SPs) in the State on religious conversion and the number of churches established in their respective districts in the past one year. He insisted the Assam government had not issued any instruction for such an exercise that "might hurt the sentiments of a religious community".

The Assam police's Special Branch is said to have issued the letter on December 16 asking the SPs to submit their report on Christian activities along with suggestions on "counter measures" by December 22. "I have asked the Director-General of Police (DGP) to conduct an investigation after receiving a copy of the letter on Friday," Mr. Sarma said.

"I think we should not seek information like how many churches are there in Assam. We should avoid these things in order not to hurt the sentiments of a particular religious community," he said.

Mr. Sarma said he had asked the DGP to find out in what context the letter was issued and take corrective measures.

"I completely disassociate myself from the unwarranted letter. It was never discussed in any government forum. If at all the government wants to issue such a letter, it should go from the Home Department or the DGP," he said.

Pointing out that Assam does not have a law to regulate conversion, the Chief Minister said the government does not want survey on religious institutions.

The Assam Christian Forum said it was pained by the 'circular' that sent a wrong narrative to society.

"The community has contributed immensely to the Assamese society. We have got thousands of schools in Assam and elsewhere in the northeast," Allen Brook, the forum's spokesperson, said.

Teacher recruitment exam paper leaked in Rajasthan, 44 held

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Seven of the arrested were 'experts' who were helping the candidates solve the paper, the police said

The general knowledge test for the recruitment of Class 2 teachers in government schools, conducted by the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC), was cancelled on Saturday after the test paper was allegedly leaked in Udaipur just hours before the commencement of the exam. The police arrested 44 persons, including 37 candidates, in connection with the incident.

The police said 44 people were caught while travelling on a private bus, which was stopped at an intersection in front of the Bekariya police station in Udaipur district. They were caught solving the question paper. The police said seven of the arrested were "experts" who were helping the candidates solve the paper.

Acting on a tip-off, the police were monitoring the movement of the suspects since Friday night.

The RPSC said the exam would be reconducted on January 29. Among the arrested was the alleged mastermind, Suresh Bishnoi, a government teacher who allegedly sold the test paper for ₹10 lakh.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the examination had been cancelled "as a precautionary measure" to ensure that no injustice was done to any hardworking youth.

ICICI Bank ex-CEO Chanda Kochhar, husband sent to CBI custody till tomorrow

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

A special court in Mumbai on Saturday remanded ICICI Bank's former CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar in the custody of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) till Monday in connection with alleged cheating and irregularities in loans sanctioned by the bank to Videocon Group companies.

Chanda and Deepak Kochhar are accused of irregularities in sanctioning loans to the Videocon Group. GETTY IMAGES

The Kochhars were arrested by the probe agency on Friday night after a brief questioning session. The CBI has alleged that they were evasive in their response and did not cooperate in the investigation.

The CBI had named the Kochhars and Venugopal Dhoot of Videocon Group, along with companies Nupower Renewables (NRL) managed by Deepak Kochhar, Supreme Energy, Videocon International Electronics Ltd. and Videocon Industries Ltd., as accused in the FIR registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections related to criminal conspiracy and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act in 2019. The CBI has alleged that ICICI Bank had sanctioned credit facilities to the tune of ₹3,250 crore to the companies of Videocon Group promoted by Mr. Dhoot in violation of the Banking Regulation Act, RBI guidelines, and credit policy of the bank.

Fine imposed on anti-CAA protesters in U.P.'s Amroha

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A claims tribunal in Meerut constituted under the Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damage to Public and Private Property Act, 2020, has found 86 people responsible for damaging public property during the anti-CAA and NRC protests in Amroha, and imposed a fine of ₹4,27,439.

It is perhaps the first such recovery ordered under the new Act.

The two-member tribunal headed by A.K. Singh also directed the District Magistrate of Amroha to deposit the amount recovered from them in favour of the State government. In the matter, all the persons who have been found responsible for damaging the public property are from the Muslim community.

Agnipath protest

Under the Act, three tribunals were formed in Meerut, Prayagraj and Lucknow. The Meerut tribunal has also ordered the administration to recover a total of ₹1,04,620 from 10 persons allegedly involved in the violence during protests against the Agnipath scheme in Aligarh.

The State government has promulgated the Recovery of Damage to Public and Private Property Act, 2020 after the anti-CAA and NRC protests to create a mechanism for the recovery of damages during any protest or riots. This Act of Uttar Pradesh calls for the recovery of damages to public or private property during hartal, bandhs, riots, protests and so on from the accused through claim tribunals.

Critics have argued that the Act deviates from the normal legal process wherein the burden of proof lies on the accuser (law enforcement agencies).

This Act expects the accused to present evidence of innocence from the alleged crimes, on account of simply them being named as accused.

Students of Jadavpur varsity protest seeking polls

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

A section of students of Jadavpur University on Saturday held a protest in the presence of West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, when he arrived at the university for the annual convocation. They were demanding that the elections to the student union council of the university be held immediately.

The students held posters and placards and raised slogans demanding elections when the Governor along with the University officials was approaching the venue, for the 65th annual convocation of the University. This was the first major convocation which the Governor presided over after assuming office on November 23.

Trinamool Congress feels the heat as allegations of corruption in PMAY surface

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress is feeling the heat of allegations of corruption in the selection of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) beneficiaries in West Bengal. On Saturday, more than a dozen functionaries of a panchayat samity in Murshidabad resigned fearing protests by people over the alleged irregularities in the identification of beneficiaries. Seventeen members of the Bharatpur II panchayat samity tendered their resignation at the Block Development Office.

Fight against corruption: Members of CPI(M) protesting against corruption in Paschim Bardhaman. TWITTER/@CPIM_WESTBENGAL

"A number of poor who do not have pucca houses or are living in tents have not been included in the list," one of the panchayat functionaries told press-persons. The development created a controversy in the political circles of the State as so far there were only reports of allegations, while this was admission of corruption by the functionaries themselves.

Trinamool Congress MP and district president Abu Taher tried to pass the blame on the officials, and said that the list of beneficiaries was not prepared by the the panchayat functionaries.

It was only a month ago that the Union government lifted the freeze on the PMAY funds in the State, approving its share of ₹8,200 crore for the year 2022-23. The funds were on hold since April. According to senior officials of the West Bengal government, funds for a total of 11 lakh dwelling units were approved. The Centre approved its share of 60%.

After the list of beneficiaries was made public, protests erupted in different districts of the State. The list of beneficiaries at several places includes relatives of elected panchayat functionaries as well as those who have multi-storey houses in the same area. Protests have been reported from North 24 Parganas, South 24 parganas, Purba Bardhaman, Murshidabad, Purulia, Bankura and Hooghly, among other districts.

The protests are also bringing the left and right supporters together. On Friday, supporters of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) were seen at a rally organised by supporters of the BJP Hooghly district.

Meanwhile, the State government has struck off names of hundreds of beneficiaries and started scrutiny of the list of beneficiaries.

Cannot hide the truth, hatred is hurting our country: Rahul Gandhi

Bharat Jodo Yatra, on its 108th day, enters the national capital; at a rally near the Red Fort, former Congress chief says the BJP-led government is handing over public assets such as ports, airports and roads to its cronies while diverting people's attention from real issues

Muneef Khan
NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are spreading fear among people and using hate as a weapon to divert attention from real issues, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday.

Mr. Gandhi made these statements while addressing a public meeting outside the Red Fort, after the Bharat Jodo Yatra entered Delhi. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Sonia Gandhi and actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan were among those who shared the stage at the public event.

Mr. Gandhi alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling BJP had spent thousands of crores of rupees to destroy his image, but he had shown the truth to the country in just a month.

While walking hundreds of kilometres from Kanniyakumari to Delhi, Mr. Gandhi said, he had not seen any violence or hatred but it was being spread on television all the time at the behest of the powers controlling the media.

"After doing Hindu-Muslim [debate] 24 hours, they will hand over your money and sell all your ports, airports, roads and other assets to their crony friends... They try to divert your attention all the time," he said.

"This is not Narendra Modi's government, this is Adani and Ambani's government and the whole country knows this. I did not see any violence or hate during the yatra, but when I watch the TV [news], all I see is violence and hatred," Mr. Gandhi said.

Homage to Vajpayee

On Sunday, the Congress leader will make a significant political statement by paying homage at the memorial to former Prime Minister and BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He will also visit the memorials to Mahatma Gandhi (Rajghat), Jawaharlal Nehru (Shantivan), Indira Gandhi (Shakti Sthal) and Rajiv Gandhi (Veer Bhumi).

The 3,570-km Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir yatra, spanning nine States, entered the national capital on its 108th day at the Badarpur boundary and stopped at the Red Fort. Before restarting the march on January 3, the yatra will take a nine-day break for the year-end.

Show of support: (Left) Rahul Gandhi with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Makkal Needhi Maiam founder Kamal Haasan and Congress leader K.C. Venugopal at a rally near Red Fort on Saturday, and, top, with his mother and former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA, PTI

Ms. Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were among the leaders who joined the yatra just before it reached Ashram Chowk.

Various leaders from across party lines, including Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) president Thol. Thirumavalavan, Shyam Singh Yadav of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Mr. Haasan, who heads the Makkal Needhi Maiam, joined the march in solidarity. Mr. Haasan said, "I am here because I am an Indian. My father was a Congressman. I had various ideologies and started my own political party. But when it comes to the country, all political party lines will have to blur. I blurred that line and I come here as Kamal Haasan, son of India."

Mr. Kharge said, "This yatra is not a political game; instead, it is to voice concerns over unemployment, rising prices and China's attack on India. We tried to speak about this in Parliament, but this government does not want to hear or let us speak. They are running away from the debate." Mr. Kharge also alleged that the Modi government was using COVID-19 as an "excuse" to derail the yatra.

Mr. Thirumavalavan told *The Hindu* that he agreed with Mr. Gandhi's idea of "putting an end to hate", and accused the BJP and RSS of "spoiling" the country's economic health and dividing its citizens.

On January 3, the yatra will set out for Jammu and Kashmir, after passing through Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab.

INBRIEF

Congress flouting COVID-19 protocols: Anurag Thakur

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday hit out at the Congress over its Bharat Jodo Yatra, accusing the party of abdicating its responsibility by flouting COVID-19 protocols when the pandemic was rearing its head once again. Mr. Thakur also sought to know whether Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra, had undergone his COVID-19 test as Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who had walked alongside him last week, was infected with the virus. "COVID-19 cases are rising in China and Japan. But you are not bothered about the interests of the country," Mr. Thakur said. PTI

Issue mandatory COVID-19 protocols, AAP urges Centre

The Centre should issue "mandatory" protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and everyone, be it a political party or someone taking out a march, must follow them, the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national spokesperson, Raghav Chadha, said on Saturday in a veiled reference to the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra, led by Rahul Gandhi. Addressing presspersons, Mr. Chadha said the Centre should do so to avoid the situation that the country had witnessed, in the first and second wave of the pandemic. India saw a major crisis in the past two waves due to the Centre's failure in understanding the "seriousness" of the virus spread, he said. PTI

Cong. sets up committee to keep an eye on INTUC, recognises Sanjeeva Reddy as leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress leadership has set up a five-member coordination committee to "keep an eye" on the party's trade union wing, Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC). The committee will be headed by AICC general secretary Tariq Anwar. Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat, K. Muraleedharan and Rajmani Patel, MPs, and former MP Udit Raj are its members.

AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal said the decision was taken based on the recommendation submitted by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Digvijaya Singh to former Congress president Sonia Gandhi earlier when she was the president of the party. The party also examined the factional fight between INTUC president Sanjeeva Reddy and former MP from Jharkhand C.S. Dubey. "On examining the membership records and number of trade unions affiliated to each faction of INTUC, the AICC recognises INTUC led by Mr. Reddy as the official body," Mr. Venugopal said in the release.

Mr. Venugopal said the coordination committee will keep an eye on the affairs of the INTUC and apprise the Congress president of developments from time to time. In a letter to Mr. Reddy, Mr. Venugopal urged him to resolve the differences amicably in the interest of the working class and withdraw the cases filed against each other [Mr. Reddy and Mr. Dubey] immediately. He has also urged the INTUC leadership to hold election immediately.

Sanjeeva Reddy

Plenary session

The national plenary session of INTUC will be held in Delhi from February 22 to 24. As part of the session, several State-level conventions are being held now. At the Kerala State convention held in Thekkady in Idukki on December 21 and 22, INTUC State president and national vice-president R. Chandrasekhar had raised the lack of attention of the AICC to the affairs of the INTUC with Mr. Anwar.

"He assured us that he will take it up with the AICC leadership. Now, the leadership has constituted a committee and it is a remarkable step not just for the INTUC, but for the united trade unions of the country," Mr. Chandrasekhar said.

He said settling the problems in the INTUC would help in an early comeback of the Congress. "If this government at the Centre continues, there will be no public sector left in this country. Not just the INTUC, the entire working people look at this decision of the Congress leadership very positively. We are an organisation of about four crore workers. We have a major role to play in protecting the fabric of this country," he added.

OROP revision by govt. is a direct impact of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Party says Defence Minister announced the revision before Rahul's yatra entered New Delhi

Welcoming the Centre's decision to revise the pension of ex-servicemen under the 'One Rank, One Pension' (OROP) scheme, the Congress party on Saturday said it was a direct impact of the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra campaign, which had raised the issue.

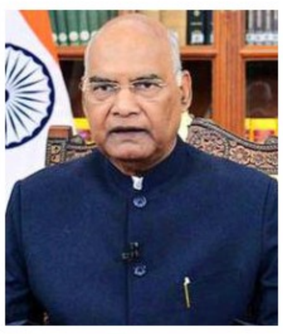
Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said one should "understand the chronology" as ex-servicemen had met Mr. Gandhi only two days ago and highlighted the issue. "We are happy that pension arrears of ex-servicemen will be given. This is the direct effect of the Bharat Jodo Yatra... Rahul*ji*'s meeting yielded the decision of the Union Cabinet two days later," Mr. Ramesh said at a press conference.

"On December 14, when the extension to implement revision was finishing on December 15, the government filed a Miscellaneous Application [in the Supreme Court] to skirt the issue and to buy more time till March 15, 2023. Rahul Gandhi meets ex-servicemen on December 21 at Ferozepur-Jhirka in Haryana as part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. They raise this issue and give him a memorandum and he supports their demands, which is given wide publicity," Mr. Ramesh later said in a statement.

"Defence Minister also announces the clearance of arrears after Cabinet meeting on the evening of December 23 before Bharat Jodo Yatra enters New Delhi," he added.

Vajpayee a rare combination of politician, poet, fearless human being, says Kovind

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Ram Nath Kovind

Former President Ram Nath Kovind said here on Sunday that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was not only instrumental in installing a portrait of the founder of the Constitution, B.R. Ambedkar, in Parliament House but had also declared in a speech that the BJP did not work on the lines of the *Manusmriti* but on "Bhimsmriti" or the Indian Constitution. "That speech had worked a lot in the image makeover of BJP and changing the perception of a particular section of society about the party's policies and ideologies," Mr. Kovind said.

Mr. Kovind was delivering the fifth Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture in Delhi organised by the India Foundation on the eve of Vajpayee's birth anniversary. Speaking on the topic of "Social empowerment through good governance: the Vajpayee way", Mr. Kovind said that transparency and welfare of all was the key to Vajpayee's governance and that made him rule hearts. He said the former Prime Minister was a "rare combination of a politician, poet, fearless human being and sympathetic leader who had no enemies, like Ajatshatru".

"The current schemes like the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Jan Dhan and Mudra are the vision of the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the present government, being led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is fulfilling his dream and vision," Mr. Kovind added.

Giving credit to Vajpayee for motivating him to join politics, Mr. Kovind said the former Prime Minister had always kept "the nation before politics". Vajpayee supported the then Indira Gandhi-led Congress government during the 1971 war with Pakistan.

Explaining how Vajpayee had immense respect for Ambedkar, Mr. Kovind said Vajpayee always use to tell him [Mr. Kovind] that it was painful to see there was "no picture of Babasaheb in Parliament". It was Vajpayee who brought a painting of Ambedkar to Parliament, and had requested for a Bharat Ratna for Ambedkar.

Banned Jamaat assets estimated at ₹122 crore seized in Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Saturday seized property estimated at ₹122.89 crore, mainly land plots, of the banned socio-religious Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) organisation in Kulgam, Pulwama, Budgam and Srinagar, including the house of Hurriyat leader the late Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

An official spokesperson said the two-storey residential house constructed over 17 marlas and 199 square feet at Barzulla, in the name of Geelani and Firdous Ahmad Asmi, was sealed under provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

"The action will uproot the menace of militant funding to a great extent in Jammu and Kashmir, besides being a stepping stone in ensuring the rule of law," the SIA said.

A total of 188 JeI properties have been identified for action across J&K. "Either they have been notified or are under the process of being notified for further legal action," the SIA said.

According to the SIA, during seizure proceedings about a dozen business establishments in Kulgam, including a shopping complex in Magam, were found running on JeI properties on a rent basis.

APPOINTMENT

Central Tribal University of A.P.
Vizianagaram (A.P.) 535003
Recruitment Notification

Applications are invited from the prospective & eligible candidates for the post of **Registrar, Finance Officer** and **Controller of Examinations** on tenure basis. Visit University website **www.ctuap.ac.in** for qualifications, eligibility criteria and other details.

Last date for online apply : **23/01/2023 (23:59 hrs)**
Advt. No. CTUAP/Advt-NT/2022/258, dt. 24/12/2022
Sd/-
Officer (Admn)

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT KARAIKAL
e-TENDER NOTICE No.18/I&PH/TN/2022-23 Dt. 23-12-2022

On behalf of the President of India, e-Tenders are invited from the eligible bidders by the Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Public Health Division, PWD, Karaikal for the following works:-

1. Relaying of various roads and internal streets at Karaikal U.T of Puducherry. Sub Work: (1) Relaying of various roads and internal streets at North of Thirunallar road in Karaikal. "Approx. Estimated Cost: ₹ 12,40,02,714/-(incl. of GST); EMD: ₹ 22,40,027/-; e-tender fee : ₹ 1500 + GST @ 5%
2. Relaying of various roads and internal streets at Karaikal U.T of Puducherry. Sub Work: (2) Relaying of various roads and internal streets at South of Thirunallar road in Karaikal. "Approx. Estimated Cost: ₹ 6,36,40,777/-(incl. of GST); EMD: ₹ 12,72,816/-; e-tender fee :₹ 1500 + GST @ 5%

The detailed procedure is available in the Press Notice which can be downloaded along with the NIT from the website **www.pudutenders.gov.in** only by those Contractors who are having valid ikey and Digital Signature Certificate.

(i) Availability of NIT from 10.00 AM on 28.12.2022 to 03.30 P.M. on 11.01.2023 and Closing time for submission of e-tender at 4.00 PM on the same day of last date of availability of NIT
(ii) Date & Time of Opening of tender 12.01.2023 on 10.30 A.M

Please contact ICICI BANK for e-payment help desk guidance in Phone No. 8939202113.

Please contact e-Procurement cell, 3rd floor, Chief Secretariat, e-tender help desk for guidance in Phone No. 0413-2220225 & 1800 3070 2232 (Toll Free) mail id: Support-eproc.pon@nic.in

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-I&PH

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No : JDA/EE&TA to Dir.Engg.-II/2022/D-143 Dated : 22.12.2022

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. : EE & TA to Dir.Engg.-II/39/2022-23

Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given below :-

S. No.	Zone	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	EE-11	JDA2223WSRC00577	267.50	349/ 2022-23	Development of Shamshan Ghat	16.01.2023

Details are available at Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in.

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg-II

Raj.Samwad/C/22/12263

INBRIEF

Murmu visits Sacred Heart Cathedral on Christmas eve

President Droupadi Murmu visited the Sacred Heart Cathedral in New Delhi and greeted fellow citizens, on the eve of Christmas. In a message, the President said that the festival was a symbol of peace and brotherhood for the entire mankind. "On this day, we remember the message of compassion and sacrifice given by Jesus Christ. The festival of Christmas inspires us to treat each other with love and kindness. Let us take a pledge to adopt the divine teachings of Jesus Christ in our lives," Ms. Murmu said.

Defeated in local poll, man threatens villagers with sword

Upset about his defeat in the gram panchayat polls, a man from Khamkhed village of Akola in Maharashtra allegedly threatened the villagers by brandishing a sword on Saturday. A video of the incident went viral on social media in which the 45-year-old accused is purportedly seen threatening and abusing the villagers. According to officials, members of his family had been elected to the panchayat for the past 30 years, and he too had contested the recently held election but was defeated. A case has been registered.

'Instability in Myanmar has fallout on our side'

An increase in narcotics smuggling for easy money and the influx of refugees post-coup are challenges, says Commander of Sector 23 Assam Rifles; armed groups involved in smuggling to sustain operations against Myanmar Army; recoveries around ₹167 crore have been made this year, he adds

INTERVIEW

Brigadier Digvijay Singh

Dinakar Peri

Mizoram, which shares a long porous border with Myanmar, has had an influx of Myanmar nationals crossing into it since the coup in that country. The northeastern State has also seen a major spike in the smuggling of narcotics and other contraband. Brigadier Digvijay Singh, Commander of Sector 23 Assam Rifles, discusses the challenges to stability in the region.

In your assessment, how has the instability in Myanmar affected Mizoram?

After the coup in February 2021, there has been a continuous influx of illegal immigrants from Myanmar and is steadily increasing. With the Free Movement Regime (FMR) clause also effective in Mizoram, tracking of these illegal immigrants is difficult but still Assam Rifles keeps a record of all those coming in and going back to Myanmar. The figures of the State government and the Assam Rifles do not tally since many of the illegal immigrants have returned to their country. But still a considerable number are staying in Mizoram.

Because of the illegal immigrants, the pressure on the State has considerably increased. Various NGOs/CSOs are coming out to help the displaced Myanmarese. But it has been more then a year and the situation in Myanmar is still unstable. This instability has fallout for our side too.

There were some record seizures recently, can you give an overview.

We have done a number of major operations this year with recoveries ranging up to ₹167 crore. The recoveries were mainly of methamphetamine tablets, which is a growing new trend as there is easy money involved since manufacturing cost amounts to ₹5-₹10 [a tablet] whereas market value is approximately ₹3,000 [a tablet] in major cities.

The increase in recoveries can be attributed to instability in Myanmar and a number of armed groups getting involved in smuggling activities to sustain their operations against the Myanmar Army. If you see the pattern of narcotics smuggling, it shows a sharp increase post-coup. In 2022, the rise has been four times compared with the previous year's.

What do you have to say about the huge recoveries of narcotics and warlike stores (WLS) that have been made by the Assam Rifles and other agencies?

Recoveries show an increasing trend in the inflow of narcotics which has shown a sudden surge in the last two months with huge recoveries of meth tablets. It could be the result of increase in the demand or the easy money it brings along with it.

Till date, we have apprehended 31 Myanmar nationals involved in illegal activities. Due to disturbance and uncertainty in their homeland and having easy access to both the countries and the easy money it brings along, it is quite convenient for Myanmarese to get involved in this racket.

As far as WLS is concerned, the local resistance forces in Myanmar require WLS and tactical stores for their operations against the Myanmar Army, and, due to sympathisers on our side, it is comparatively easier for them to arrange stores from Mizoram. But Assam Rifles has been vigilant and we have made huge recoveries in terms of WLS, tactical stores.

Though Mizoram is a peaceful State, with so much movement of narcotics and WLS, the possibility of any untoward incident cannot be ruled out.

With the situation relatively quiet, what are the biggest challenges you are facing on the ground?

23 Sector Assam Rifles is responsible for guarding and managing 510 km of the India-Myanmar border of the total 1,643 km. The border is porous, the major portion is riverine border and rugged terrain with large number of unreachable (no go) areas. Special provision of free movement regime along with ethnic affiliation makes dynamics of the border unique and challenging.

The limited availability of troops, proximity to the Golden Triangle, FMR, an unstable Myanmar, the boundary issue between Mizoram and Assam, transit point of Indian insurgent groups and smuggling of narcotics and contraband makes the security situation in Mizoram very dynamic.

In the past few months, there were huge recoveries of narcotics in Aizawl. Your view on this?

Aizawl being at the heart of Mizoram, all goods including contraband and narcotics pass through it. Our battalion at Aizawl has been playing a major role in operations and is a big deterrent to all inimical activities. In the past few months, we have recovered narcotics worth more than ₹100 crore and all endeavours are in place to keep the city clean of all illegal acts.

A 225-km yatra to save the endangered sacred groves of Rajasthan

Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

A unique 225-km yatra taken out through remote villages and hamlets in western Rajasthan, which culminated at the Jaisalmer district headquarters earlier this week, has put forth the demand of protection of *orans* or sacred groves, which face the threat of destruction with their land being allotted for renewable energy infrastructure and high-tension power lines.

Orans also form the natural habitat for India's most critically endangered bird, the Great Indian Bustard (GIB). Many birds have died during the last few years because of collision with power lines, making this the most significant threat to the majestic birds.

The participants in the march on foot, who were mostly environmental activists and wildlife enthusiasts, highlighted the significance of *orans*, which are groves of trees with a rich diversity of traditional flora and fauna and waterbodies, considered sacred and preserved by the locals.

Caring for: A sacred grove in Jaisalmer facing threat with the land being allotted to solar power companies. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Environmental activist Sumer Singh Bhati, who led the *yatra*, told *The Hindu* that the allotment of their land to solar and wind energy, mining and other industries was affecting the ecology of the region.

Tradition dictates that no tree or plant in the groves is cut and only seasonal grazing of livestock is allowed. However, solar power companies have resorted to arbitrary action and felled trees to install their big projects. About 60 activists, who traversed through about 50 villages and hamlets in Jaisalmer district for nine days with a camel cart, apprised the villagers of the issues involved in their agitation and raised awareness among the local communities.

Poppy cloaks denuded Manipur hills, Biren declares 'war' on tribal chiefs

CM launched a campaign against drugs when he took over in 2017, and provided cash incentives to tribal village chieftains this year, but vast areas of the State are still under the narcotic crop. In a video message, he says no question of compromise

Iboyaima Laithangbam
IMPHAL

A furious Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has issued a "last warning" to tribal village chieftains in Manipur, urging them to stop poppy cultivation in the vast mountain slopes immediately or "face life imprisonment".

In a video message posted on social media on Thursday night, he thundered: "We shall never compromise on the issue since it is a question of survival or extinction of human beings."

Gone astray

The Chief Minister has good reasons to be angry and distraught since he feels that the tribal leaders have backed out of their commitments and assurances to root out the poppy crop.

Soon after becoming the Chief Minister of Manipur in 2017, Mr. Singh announced a "war" against poppy plantations.

Wielding the stick: Policemen engaged in destroying poppy plants grown on a mountain slope in Manipur. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For such a campaign to be successful in the tribal areas of the hill State, it was critical that the village chieftains, whose word holds sway in their own domain, were on board. Early this year, Mr. Singh had announced that the response from the tribal chieftains was overwhelming. He distributed substantial cash to several chieftains to help them switch over to other crops after destroying the verdant poppy plants.

Almost a year later, the reality is disappointing. The Chief Minister's video showed vast areas planted with poppy in some hill districts.

"What is this? The mountains are bereft of trees and other vegetation which means that the mountain streams are choked, triggering mud and landslips. Without water, nothing can be grown, which threatens the lives of human beings," said Mr. Singh, on the video, as it showed poppy plants concealed behind consumable vegetation.

Sounding his last warning, the Chief Minister said that his government would now declare war against the tribal chieftains. There is no question of compromise with those drug lords who are out to earn a fortune at the cost of the lives of the ordinary people, he added.

Mr. Singh had announced that as part of his anti-drug campaign, the raiding parties would be supplied with drug testing kits to establish that the seized items were actually drugs.

SUDOKU

	9	1	3	4	5			
						3		
			6	1		9		4
	8	4						1
7								5
1						7	8	
5		6		9	8			
		2						
			7	2	3	5	4	

No.SS5659 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	2	6	4	9	7	1	5
5	6	1	2	7	8	3	4	9
9	7	4	1	5	3	6	2	8
7	4	3	8	1	5	2	9	6
6	1	8	7	9	2	5	3	4
2	9	5	3	6	4	8	7	1
3	5	6	9	2	1	4	8	7
1	8	7	4	3	6	9	5	2
4	2	9	5	8	7	1	6	3

What's cooking in harissa pot? A will to break the glass ceiling

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

For centuries, men monopolised the making of harissa, a mutton dish platefuls of which is gulped down in Kashmir as breakfast during winter. Prepared overnight using the slow heat of firewood in a utensil buried in a tandoor or clay oven, the dish requires muscle power, night-long patience and knowledge of spices.

However, women in Kashmir are giving a tough competition to the harissa-*goaer,* the male cooks, this winter, with online platforms emerging as a game changer.

Sheikh Hirra, an engineering graduate and mother from the Hyderpora area of Srinagar, started the trend of capturing the male-dominated market for harissa.

"Earlier, people would stand outside harissa shops in queues very early in the morning in the old city. My idea was to make harissa available just a click away. The idea did pick up and the sales are going up," said Ms. Hirra, who now sells in all major districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

NRI orders

Using online platforms such as Gatoes and FastBettle, Ms. Hirra has even been able to ship harissa beyond J&K. "It's getting popular outside. I receive orders from all corners of the country. In Kashmir, harissa is also an emotion. Many non-resident Indians place orders for their old parents in Srinagar, so that they don't have to come out early in the cold mornings to buy. Customer reviews have helped a lot," said Ms. Hirra, who owns the Fall Winter Harissa brand.

Harissa, a take-off on a popular Armenian dish, is a breakfast dish only available in the peak winter months of November to February in Kashmir. People queue up at the crack of dawn to buy harissa in the city, as it finishes fast due to growing demand. This high-protein diet keeps people warm and helps them brave the sub-zero temperatures of Valley winters.

Showing the way: Sheikh Hirra is among the first few women who took to Harissa selling, an otherwise male-dominated sector in Kashmir. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Until a few years ago, only men dominated the cooking of harissa at a small number of outlets in the city as it required overnight cooking and constant grinding with a huge wooden pestle.

Armed with technology, women are equal competitors now. Shahida Fazili, 58, a former school principal from the Pampore area, said that her annual shipments of home-made harissa to her two sons in Dubai became a runaway hit among their friends and colleagues.

"Earlier, only relatives and friends would approach me. This year, I received an order for 15 kg of harissa from Delhi. People are liking it outside.," Ms. Fazili said.

She sees the harissa market fast expanding in Kashmir. "It was a dish meant for upper classes earlier. However, Kashmir is witnessing affluence and harissa demand has also gone upWe ensure that the texture is not lost. The grinding has to be by a pestle and not a machine. People prefer home-made harissa to that from outlets for their meat quality also," Ms. Fazili said.

Harissa requires at least four to six hours of oversight by the cook. Being laborious to make, Ms. Fazili believes that most working women prefer to buy the home-made dish rather than cook it at home themselves.

Cottage industries

Harissa is fast turning into a cottage industry in Kashmir's upmarket colonies. Women find it comfortable to take up cooking dishes, especially harissa, as online start-ups.

Rehana Khan, a homemaker from the Bemina area of Srinagar, only delivers harissa in her locality and among relatives. "My home-made harissa was popular among my relatives. The word spread and people came for it.I have already prepared 15 orders this winter," she said.

In the coming days, harissa sales are likely to go up further for Ms. Khan. With the day temperature dipping fast in Kashmir and night temperature already below zero degree Celsius, harissa remains a sought-after dish to battle the cold in the Valley.

BRASÍLIA

Bolsonaro pardon includes convicted Brazilian officers

AFP

Outgoing Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has pardoned security forces convicted of crimes committed more than 30 years ago. The measure would pardon 74 police officers convicted in the massacre at Sao Paulo's Carandiru prison in 1992 when 111 detainees were killed in a military police intervention, specialists said. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran's supreme court to retry rapper reportedly on death row

AFP

Iran has ordered the retrial of a Kurdish rapper Saman Seydi who was reportedly sentenced to death over protests sparked by Mahsa Amini's death, the judiciary said on Saturday. Mr. Seydi was accused of "moharebeh", which means "enmity against God". Rights groups said the rapper had been accused of firing a pistol into the air. AFP

MOSCOW

Twenty-two killed in fire at private illegal nursing home in Russia

AP

A fire erupted overnight in a private illegal nursing home in the Siberian city of Kemerovo, killing 22 people, Russia's investigative committee said on Saturday. Russia's investigative committee — which investigates major crimes — said it opened a probe into causing death by negligence. AFP

DHAKA

Sheikh Hasina elected Awami League president for 10th term

AP

Bangladesh's ruling Awami League on Saturday re-elected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the party chief for the 10th consecutive term and Obaidul Quader as general secretary amid preparedness for general elections in early 2024. Ms. Hasina has remained the head of the moderate party since 1981. PTI

'Chinese city seeing half a million COVID cases a day'

The country's wave of infections is not being reflected in official statistics, says a senior health official in a rare and quickly censored statement; most govt.-run media downplay the severity

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Half a million people in a single Chinese city are being infected with COVID-19 every day, a senior health official has said, in a rare and quickly censored acknowledgement that the country's wave of infections is not being reflected in official statistics.

China this month has rapidly dismantled key pillars of its zero-COVID strategy, doing away with snap lockdowns, lengthy quarantines and travel curbs in a jarring reversal of its hallmark containment strategy.

Cities across the country have struggled to cope as surging infections have emptied pharmacy shelves, filled hospital wards and appeared to cause backlogs at crematoriums and funeral homes.

But the end of strict testing mandates has made caseloads virtually impossible to track, while authorities have narrowed the medical definition of a COVID death in a move experts have said will suppress the number of fatalities attributable to the virus.

In large numbers: A medical worker attends to the huge inflow of visitors to a hospital in Bazhou city in northern China. AP

A news outlet operated by the ruling Communist Party in Qingdao on Friday reported the municipal health chief as saying that the eastern city was seeing "between 4,90,000 and 5,30,000" new COVID cases a day.

The coastal city of around 10 million people was "in a period of rapid transmission ahead of an approaching peak", Bo Tao reportedly said, adding that the infection rate would accelerate by another 10% over the weekend. The report was shared by several other news outlets but appeared to have been edited by Saturday morning to remove the case figures.

China's National Health Commission said on Saturday that 4,103 new domestic infections were recorded nationwide the previous day, with no new deaths. In Shandong, the province where Qingdao is located, authorities officially logged just 31 new domestic cases.

China's government keeps a tight leash on the country's media, with legions of online censors on hand to scrub out content deemed politically sensitive. Most government-run publications have downplayed the severity of the country's exit wave, instead depicting the policy reversal as logical and controlled. But some outlets have hinted at shortages of medicine and hospitals under strain, though estimates of actual case numbers remain rare.

Hong Kong leader aims at reopening China border

Associated Press
HONG KONG

Hong Kong's leader said on Saturday that China has agreed to a reopening of the city's border with the mainland, which has been largely closed by pandemic restrictions, and that he is aiming for a mid-January start.

Chief Executive John Lee, returning from a trip to Beijing where he met President Xi Jinping and other officials, told reporters that the two sides would develop a plan to reopen the border in a gradual and orderly manner.

As China eases its zero-COVID policy, Mr. Lee has made a full reopening of the border a priority to boost the city's flagging economy.

'Rambo' Rabuka returns as Prime Minister of Fiji

Agence France-Presse
SUVA

Former military commander Sitiveni Rabuka was on Saturday confirmed as Fiji's Prime Minister, after accusing the outgoing government of stoking "fear and chaos" to derail his return to power.

Mr. Rabuka replaces the imposing Frank Bainimarama, who toppled the government in a 2006 coup and became Prime Minister a year later.

The 74-year-old Rabuka said he felt "humbled" as he made his way out of Parliament to be sworn in by the country's President. The two-time coup leader and former Prime Minister – nicknamed "Rambo" – narrowly triumphed over Mr. Bainimarama by 28 votes to 27 in a secret ballot held in Parliament, speaker Naiqama Lalabalavu announced. A smiling Bainimarama appeared to accept defeat as he told reporters after the vote: "This is democracy".

Sitiveni Rabuka

Shifting focus

Mr. Rabuka has signalled a willingness to shift away from Beijing in favour of traditional allies Australia and New Zealand. The military had been deployed on the streets of Suva as Mr. Rabuka and Mr. Bainimarama raced to cobble together a coalition government following a deadlocked general election.

Citing unsubstantiated reports of ethnic violence, Mr. Bainimarama said the military was needed to maintain "law and order". But Mr. Rabuka – who served as Prime Minister between 1992 and 1999 – said the government was "sowing fear and chaos" and "trying to set the nation alight along racial lines".

Many Fijians feared the government's claims of ethnic violence – and the subsequent military deployment – were a pretext for a "creeping coup" designed to keep Mr. Rabuka in Opposition.

Zelensky lambasts Russian shelling

Agence France-Presse
KHERSON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday blasted Russian "terror" after shelling on Christmas Eve left at least eight dead and 17 injured in Kherson city, which Kyiv's forces recaptured in November.

Despite Russia's retreat from the southern port city, Kherson remains within reach of Moscow's weaponry and under constant threat.

Mr. Zelensky called the attack "killing for the sake of intimidation and pleasure", and published images of the attack.

He called the attack 'killing for the sake of intimidation and pleasure'

On the day marking 10 months since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, a string of shelling rained down around a busy market, where a fire erupted.

The fires were put out after 40 minutes but the number of dead and injured was still being "established", emergency services said on Telegram.

Pakistan repeals law against suicide

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has amended a section of the country's criminal law to repeal a colonial-era legislation against suicide, the President's office announced.

The development came in the form of an amendment, signed late on Friday by President Arif Alvi and announced by his office on Twitter. The amendment, introduced by the secular Pakistan People's Party, was approved by Parliament's Upper House, or Senate, three months ago.

Under the previous legislation – a vestige of colonial times from before the 1947 partition that carved out India and Pakistan from the former British Empire – attempted suicide was punishable by up to one year in prison, a fine or both in Pakistan.

Salman Sufi, a close aide of Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, welcomed the amendment.

He said that each and every person in distress, considering an extreme measure such as taking one's own life, must be helped and saved.

Suicide is still a crime in some countries.

Suspected Abe assassin to be indicted

Reuters
TOKYO

Japanese prosecutors have decided to indict the man suspected of shooting former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, *Kyodo* news agency and other Japanese media reported on Saturday.

The decision follows psychiatric examination of the suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, an unemployed 42-year-old.

Abe was killed with a handmade gun during an election campaign in July.

Nara prosecutors will likely indict him by January 13, according to Kyodo.

Taliban ban NGOs from hiring women; cite dress code breach

Associated Press
KABUL

The Taliban government in Afghanistan on Saturday ordered all foreign and domestic non-governmental groups to suspend employing women, the latest restrictive move by the country's new rulers against women's rights and freedoms.

The order came in a letter from Economy Minister Qari Din Mohammed Hanif, which said that any NGO found not complying with the order will have their operating licence revoked in Afghanistan.

Any NGO found not complying with the order will have their operating licence revoked.

The letter's content was confirmed by the ministry spokesman, Abdul Rahman Habib.

The ministry said it had received "serious complaints" about female staff working for NGOs not wearing the "correct" headscarf, or hijab.

It was not immediately clear if the order applies to all women or only Afghan women working at the NGOs.

Also on Saturday, Taliban security forces used a water cannon to disperse a group of women protesting the ban on university education for them in the western city of Herat, eyewitnesses said.

The developments came after Afghanistan's Taliban rulers on Tuesday banned female students from attending universities effective immediately.

Scientists freeze Great Barrier Reef coral in world-first trial

Reuters

Scientists working on Australia's Great Barrier Reef have successfully trialled a new method for freezing and storing coral larvae they say could eventually help rewild reefs threatened by climate change.

Scientists are scrambling to protect coral reefs as rising ocean temperatures destabilise delicate ecosystems. The Great Barrier Reef has suffered four bleaching events in the last seven years, including the first ever bleach during a La Nina phenomenon, which typically brings cooler temperatures.

Preserving corals

Cryogenically, frozen coral can be stored and later reintroduced to the wild but the current process requires sophisticated equipment including lasers. Scientists say a new lightweight "cryomesh" can be manufactured cheaply and better preserves coral.

In a December lab trial, the world's first with Great Barrier Reef coral, scientists used the cryomesh to freeze coral larvae at the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences (AIMS). The coral had been collected from the reef for the trial, which coincided with the brief annual spawning window.

"If we can secure the biodiversity of coral... then we will have tools for the future to really help restore the reefs and this technology for coral reefs in the future is a real game-changer," said Mary Hagedorn, Senior Research Scientist at the Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.

The cryomesh was previously trialled on smaller and larger varieties of the Hawaiian corals. A trial on the larger variety failed.

Trials are continuing with larger varieties of Great Barrier Reef coral.

The trials involved scientists from the AIMS, the Smithsonian National Zoo and the Conservation Biology Institute, the Great Barrier Reef foundation and the Taronga Conservation Society Australia as part of the Reef restoration and adaptation programme.

Mesh technology

The mesh technology, which will help store coral larvae at -196°C (-320.8°F), was devised by a team from the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering, including Dr. Zongqi Guo, a postdoctoral associate, and Professor John C. Bischof.

It was first tested on corals by PhD student Nikolas Zuchowicz.

"This new technology that we've got will allow us to do that at a scale that can actually help to support some of the aquaculture and restoration interventions," said Jonathan Daly from the Taronga Conservation Society Australia.

Diabetes remission through intermittent, calorie-restricted diet

At 12 months follow-up, remission after discontinuing anti-diabetic drugs for at least three months was seen in 44% of participants in a small, randomised, controlled trial of 72 people

R. Prasad

A small randomised, control trial with intermittent calorie-restricted diet carried out in people with type-2 diabetes was able to achieve remission in nearly 50% of the participants in the intervention group at the end of three months of follow-up after the trial. The trial lasted for three months. Even at 12 months of follow-up, remission was seen in 44% of the participants. All participants who achieved remission had completely stopped taking any drug to control blood sugar, and the remission lasted at least one year.

Even with the more stringent criteria for complete remission, which describes a return to normal measures of glucose metabolism (HbA1c in the normal range, and fasting blood glucose of 100 mg/dL) of at least one year duration in the absence of any anti-diabetic drugs, 33.3% (12/36) of participants in the intervention group achieved complete remission.

While many studies have validated the effectiveness and benefits of intermittent fasting in people with type-2 diabetes, no clinical trials have so far investigated the effectiveness of intermittent fasting in achieving remission.

For the trial, remission was defined as stable HbA1c levels less than 6.5% (48 mmol/mol) after discontinuing anti-diabetic medications for at least three months. During the trial, dosage of anti-diabetic medications was adjusted depending on blood glucose levels.

The results of the trial have been published in *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*.

The trial was carried out on 72 participants, with 36 assigned to the intervention group and the remaining 36 participants being the control arm. The age of the participants was between 38 and 72 years with a duration of type-2 diabetes of one to 11 years. They had a body mass index (BMI) of 19.1 to 30.4, and were on anti-diabetic drugs and/or insulin.

Participants in the intervention arm received the Chinese Medical Nutrition Therapy (CMNT) diet and underwent intermittent fasting for five days, followed by 10 days of ad libitum eating of everyday food items. The participants went through six cycles of intermittent fasting, followed by ad libitum eating during the three months of trial. The CMNT diet contains daily foods such as wheat, barley, rice, rye, and oat, and features low glycaemic loads, calories, and carbohydrates.

The authors had found that participants who were prescribed fewer anti-diabetics drugs were more likely to achieve diabetes remission than those taking more drugs to control blood sugar. However, duration of type-2 diabetes did not influence diabetes remission in participants.

In an email to *The Hindu*, Dr. Dongbo Liu from the Hunan Agricultural University, Changsha, China and one of the corresponding authors said, "Compared with any other low-calorie, low-carbohydrate diet which is difficult for patients to adhere to, the CMNT can be defined as periods of calorie restriction alternating with periods of ad libitum eating."

According to Dr. Liu, the potential mechanism of the CMNT in achieving remission is by improving islet cell function, intestinal flora and liver glucose metabolism show. This allows the participants to revert to normal diet after three-month trial period. Explaining why the remaining 56% of the participants in the intervention group did not achieve remission, Dr. Liu said, "As the experimental design, the intervention period was planned for three months, while the time of getting diabetes remission is inconsistent due to differences in individual physical condition. So, the intervention cycle can be flexibly applied in practical applications and extended to make more people to achieve remission."

"Outside China, people who want to attain remission from type-2 diabetes through an intermittent low-calorie diet can follow a diet with five modified fasting days (about 840 kcal/day, 46% carbohydrate, 46% fat, 8% protein), in the following 10 days of the ad libitum diet period, he or she would consume ad libitum diets with their eating habits," Dr. Liu said.

Explaining how easy it was for participants and for people outside the trial to follow the CMNT diet, he said, "It was effortless for patients to complete the CMNT intervention cycles – nearly 89% (32/36) of the participants completed the clinical trial."

While the published paper has data for only one year follow-up, participants are being continuously followed up. According to Dr. Liu, all participants have been followed up for two years by now, and a follow-up of five years or more is ongoing to explore the stability of the CMNT diet and its impact on complications. The scientists are planning further research and trial involving more participants living in a larger geographical area and a CMNT digital medical product for diabetes that combines biotechnology with information technology is under way.

Type-2 diabetes remission is achievable

A small randomised, control trial with intermittent calorie-restricted diet has found long-lasting diabetes remission

- Nearly 50% of the participants in the intervention group achieved remission at three months of follow-up
- At 12 months of follow-up, remission was seen in 44% of the participants
- All participants who achieved remission had completely stopped taking any drug to control blood sugar
- Remission was defined as stable HbA1c levels less than 6.5% after discontinuing anti-diabetic medications for at least three months
- Participants who were prescribed fewer anti-diabetics drugs were more likely to achieve diabetes remission

Tailored: Anti-diabetic medication dosage was adjusted during the trial depending on blood glucose levels

- Participants underwent six cycles of intermittent fasting for five days, followed by 10 days of ad libitum eating of everyday food items during the trial
- Participants in the intervention group received diet containing daily foods such as wheat, barley, rice, rye, and oat during the days of intermittent fasting

Nutrient supplements alone will not make children smarter

Anura Kurpad
Harshpal Singh Sachdev

There are many holy grails for parents with respect to their children's development and accomplishments, but the holiest must be their growing into adults with high Intelligent Quotient (IQ) and earning capacity. IQ, in turn, is tied closely to cognitive development, or the increasing ability of the growing child to think and reason.

Growth faltering, as an easily measurable outcome of poor nutrition, was shown in many cross-sectional studies to be associated with poor cognitive development. However, this was not simple and was confounded by poverty. The question was: did poor nutrition result in poor cognitive development and lower adult IQ? Some scholars naively linked stunting, as an indicator of poor nutrition, to poor cognitive development of the child's eventual adult capital, an intangible human asset linked to their knowledge, talents, skills, and abilities, among other qualities.

However, this single-cause interpretation lacked consideration of important mediators like schooling and its quality, which varies with wealth and home environment. A second interpretation was that if an early, nutritionally induced cognitive decline occurred, it would 'track' like a scar into adulthood, leaving its negative stigmata on the individual's capital, and indeed collectively, on the GDP of a nation. But this problem is far more complex.

In a biological framework, micronutrients such as iron, iodine, and vitamin B12 are essential for normal brain development and functioning, as shown when profound deficiency is created in experimental animals, or clinically, in patients with severe nutrition deficiency diseases. Supplements helped in these cases, resulting in an enthusiastic push for macro- and micronutrient supplements in early childhood, eventually tying solely into stunting prevention. But this is an unbalanced approach, as a recent *Lancet Global Health* paper shows.

Exaggerated: Nutritional interventions to reduce stunting in early childhood to improve their adult IQ are simplistic. GETTY IMAGES

The study evaluated four adult cohorts from birth, from Brazil, Guatemala, Philippines and South Africa. The relative contributions of early-life height and schooling to adult IQ were assessed, and the study found that schooling and early cognitive development were most important for the attained adult IQ. Importantly, child height was not independently associated with adult IQ. Thus, arguments for nutritional interventions to reduce stunting in early childhood, to improve adult IQ, earnings, and human capital, are simplistic – such claims are vastly exaggerated.

The message is clear: policy to improve cognitive development and adult human capital must not solely focus on the provision of nutrition for height. It requires holistic policies on quality of schooling and its social, emotional, and cognitive context.

In clinical perspective, serious nutritional deprivation will impact brain development and nutrition. Undernourished children should be given nutritional attention. But in the current life setting, observed nutrient deficits in public health are of the milder variety, which can easily be met by simple dietary education. Prescribing mixtures or single (micro)nutrients as supplements to make "smarter" babies and adults is unwarranted and unwise.

Much more needs to be done: just like food and exercise build muscles, food with creative, nurturing schooling is an exercise for the mind, related to the development of human capital. Aspirations for making smarter children and adults necessitate overall development instead of a narrow focus on nutrients.

(Anura Kurpad is Professor of Physiology in St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru. Harshpal Singh Sachdev is a Senior Consultant, Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research, New Delhi)

SNAPSHOTS

Neuromarker identified to predict food, drug cravings

Researchers have found a neuroimaging signature to predict the intensity of drug and food cravings (*Nature Neuroscience*). Cravings to use drugs or to eat are considered driving factors for substance use or overeating. Cravings induced by drug- or food-related stimuli help predict drug use and relapse, unhealthy eating and weight gain. They identified a neuromarker that predicted the intensity of drug and food cravings among users of nicotine, alcohol and cocaine alongside matched controls.

A Streptococcus (strep A) causes infections in children

An unseasonal rise in group *A Streptococcus* (strep A) infections has killed over a dozen children. Strep A infections cause a mild sore throat but occasionally they can lead to scarlet fever and, rarely, to even more serious conditions such as meningitis. Some researchers theorise that the off-season outbreaks are a result of past surges that spawned new strep strains, which happened before the pandemic. Lockdowns may have protected children from strep A, and fewer are immune to strep A and it is surging again.

Genome study finds genetic links to smoking and drinking

Researchers have identified over 3,500 genetic variations that might affect smoking and drinking behaviour in a study involving 3.4 million people with African, American, East Asian and European ancestry. The findings highlight how increasing ethnic diversity improves the power of genome-screening analyses to reveal how various traits are linked to genes or mutations. Majority of genetic associations for drinking and smoking have similar effects across different ancestries.

Question Corner

Freshwater sources

Are there untapped sources of freshwater to be harvested?

An almost limitless supply of fresh water exists in the form of water vapour above Earth's oceans, yet remains untapped, researchers said. A new study from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign suggests an investment in new infrastructure capable of harvesting oceanic water vapour as a solution to limited supplies of fresh water in various locations around the world.
The researchers evaluated 14 water-stressed locations across the globe for the feasibility of a hypothetical structure capable of capturing water vapour from above the ocean and condensing it into fresh water – and do so in a manner that will remain feasible in the face of continued climate change. They performed atmospheric and economic analyses of the placement of hypothetical offshore structures 210 metres in width and 100 metres in height. Through their analyses, the researchers concluded that capturing moisture over ocean surfaces is feasible for many water-stressed regions worldwide.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

FAQ

Have there been changes in India's foreign policy?

What was the govt.'s response to the war in Ukraine and the stand-off with China? Where does it stand on Russia?

Suhasini Haider

The story so far:
By all standards, 2022 was a difficult year on the geopolitical and diplomatic stage, especially after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. For India, the choices grew more difficult, given its strategic ties with the U.S. and Europe and traditional ties with Russia. The most significant defence of India's foreign policy was made by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who won accolades back home for calling out western "hypocrisy" on Russian oil flows to India. However, the government continues to take criticism over its China policy and the stand-off at the Line of Actual Control.

How did India handle the Ukraine crisis?
The war in Ukraine saw the government spell out its version of "non-alignment", as it sought to keep a balance in the growing polarisation between the U.S. and the European Union on one side, and Russia on the other. In the past 10 months, the war has led to thousands of deaths, and nearly 8 million refugees. Meanwhile, a slew of sanctions by the West meant to target the Russian economy led to food and fuel shortages and price increases, which worried India. The government's stand through the year was a tight-rope walk: with the Prime Minister making his discomfort with the war clear directly to Russian President Vladimir Putin with the words "This era is not for war", but at the same time refusing to accept western sanctions, growing military and oil trade with Russia, and seeking rupee-based payment mechanisms to facilitate them. Most significantly, in more than a dozen resolutions at the UNSC, UNGA, IAEA, Human Rights Commission and other multilateral platforms seeking to censure Russia for the invasion and humanitarian crisis, India chose to abstain. Mr. Jaishankar said India's stand was guided by its national interests.

The state of India-China relations may be tense but India is due to host Xi Jinping twice in 2023, at the G-20 and SCO summits, which could create opportunities for talks to end the stand-off

What were the other highlights?
The year was marked in many ways for Indian diplomacy, which will be at the forefront in 2023, during India's presidency of the G-20 and chairship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which will bring all the major leaders of the world to Delhi for summits. In 2022, India returned to Free Trade Agreements, after a hiatus of several years when the Modi government had called for a review of all FTAs, scrapped all Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) and walked out of the 15-nation Asian Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In 2022, India signed trade agreements with the UAE and Australia, and hopes to progress on talks with the EU, Gulf Cooperation Council and Canada for others. India also joined the U.S.-led Indo-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF), although it later decided to stay out of trade talks. At the G-20, India is expected to highlight climate change transitions, "women-led" development and multilateral reform, among other key issues.

What about ties with neighbours?
In the neighbourhood, India's foreign policy was marked by economic assistance to Sri Lanka in the midst of its collapse, and regional trade and energy agreements with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal that could see a South Asian energy grid emerge. India has also strengthened ties with Central Asian countries on connectivity. The government kept channels open with repressive regimes like Afghanistan's Taliban and the Myanmar Junta, opening a "technical mission" in Kabul and sending the foreign secretary to Nay Pyi Taw. This week, India abstained on a UNSC vote calling for Myanmar to end violence and release political prisoners. With Iran too, where protests against the killing of activist Mahsa Amini has brought thousands onto the streets, India has steered clear of any criticism. However, with Pakistan, ties remain flat-lined, with a big showdown at the UN this month between Mr. Jaishankar and Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto.

Has there been progress on LAC stand-off?
Despite a visit to Delhi by China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and disengagement at some stand-off points, India-China tensions at the Line of Actual Control remained high, and the year ended with an unsuccessful Chinese PLA attempt to take Indian posts at Yangtse in Arunachal Pradesh, signalling more such violent clashes could follow in 2023. The government took some heat from the Opposition over its failure to hold an open debate in Parliament to discuss the LAC stand-off that has been ongoing since April 2020, especially after Prime Minister Modi shook hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Bali G20 meet in November. Regardless of the fraught state of ties, India is due to host Mr. Xi twice in 2023, at the G-20 and SCO summits, which could create opportunities for talks to end the stand-off.

Is the economy driving with the brakes on?

How have global factors like the war in Ukraine impacted India? Why has inflation remained high for most of the year? What measures have the Reserve Bank adopted to cool prices?

Vikas Dhoot

The story so far:
At this time last December, India's economy was on the cusp of a fledgling recovery from COVID-19, though the Omicron variant posed fresh speed bumps for the rebound. With oil prices escalating, commodity prices volatile and shipping disruptions hitting supply chains, the U.S. had recorded a 40-year high inflation rate in November 2021 and ripple effects were expected to flare up around the world. That Russia's brewing tensions with Ukraine could come to a head, was a worry too. Broadly, however, economists and the government were hopeful that Indian households' consumption spending would return to pre-pandemic normalcy in 2022 and help fuel a virtuous private investment revival spurring job creation.

Why did 2022 turn out to be a rougher storm than most anticipated?
While the Omicron wave was less fatal than the pandemic's preceding waves, it also didn't take as much of a toll on the economy in 2022 as the previous two years. However, some of the other fear factors at the turn of the year did materialise and ended up manifesting themselves into more shocks across the globe. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman summed up the biggest dampener when she explained to the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday why the government had sought over ₹3.25 lakh crore more for this year than it had budgeted for. "As we were preparing for the 2022-23 Budget (presented on February 1), there was a clear understanding across the globe that the pandemic is waning and recovery measures by different countries were all probably taking us to a good road to recovery. The IMF projected that the Indian economy will grow at a high rate of 9%... But then came in late February, the Russia-Ukraine war and the complete disruption in supply chains, particularly for food and energy," she said. Amounting to 8% over the Budget expenditure estimates, the supplementary funds were sought largely for food subsidies for the poor that were initiated in the pandemic and recently extended till December 31, and an escalation in the fertilizer subsidy bill due to higher global prices.

The Indian economy has displayed a broad resilience amid strong external headwinds thanks to a consistently growing farm sector and consumers catching up on pent-up demand for contact services

Sharp dip: Vegetable prices fell dramatically in November to bring inflation below 6%, but cereals and pulses' price rise continue to accelerate. AFP

As JP Morgan managing director and India chief economist Sajjid Chinoy explained at a CII economic policy summit last week, 2022 was expected to see a pick-up in growth as well as inflation, but by the middle of the year, there was a real concern that the global economy would slip and slide into recession thanks to supply shocks. "I would venture to say that we are ending the year with another R word, which is resilience for the global economy. Just think of what's happened in the last 12 months – we've had the strongest global inflation in 50 years around the world, we've had the most aggressive and synchronised monetary tightening cycle in 40 years, we've had the strongest U.S. dollar in 20 years for much of this year. And we've had what's less appreciated – the weakest Chinese growth in about 46 years barring the pandemic. Now, in a normal year, two of these shocks would have been enough to tip the global economy into recession, we've had four such shocks, and we are still standing." One key reason for this resilience that helped ride out an almost perfect storm is that large corporate balance sheets have become stronger on the back of record profits in the last couple of years and were able to absorb these multiple shocks better, Mr. Chinoy said.

What hogged Indian policy makers' attention?
While a slowdown in manufacturing and exports in recent months is a cause of worry, inflation was undoubtedly India's bugbear of the year. With Russia being a key energy supplier and Ukraine a dominant player in the world market for food items like wheat and sunflower oil, fuel and food inflation translated into consumer price rise levels not seen in decades across several countries. India's retail inflation which flared up to the 6% upper tolerance threshold set for the central bank in January 2022, stayed over that mark through 10 of the 11 months for which data is now available. This included some months of 7%-plus inflation, with April recording a near eight-year peak of 7.8%. The surge in inflation compelled central banks, including the U.S. Federal Reserve, to hasten unwinding of easy money policies deployed to prop up economic activity through the pandemic.

In a bid to rein in inflation pressures, India's central bank has also hiked rates through the year to take the key policy rate from 4.9% in April to 6.25% by December. While the latest hike announced earlier this month was a less aggressive 35 basis points compared to 50 basis points in the previous monetary policy iterations, there is still no sign we are at the end of this tether yet. On its part, the central government unveiled a slew of measures to cool prices, including a ban on wheat exports and curbs on a few other food items' exports, with a few measures to rein in high raw material costs for industry owing to runaway commodity prices. Petrol and diesel prices have been frozen through most of this year, but that has also meant consumers have not gained from price resets when global crude prices fall, as they have in recent weeks. Vegetable prices fell dramatically in November to bring inflation below 6% for the first time this year, but cereals and pulses' price rise continue to accelerate. The government expects steps to check cereals and pulses prices to be 'felt more significantly' in coming months, while the Reserve Bank of India, which had to recently explain to the Centre its failure to meet the inflation target range for three quarters in a row, expects inflation to average 5.9% in the January to March quarter. National Council for Applied Economic Research director-general Poonam Gupta believes inflation will be lower in the coming year, partly due to base effects and partly due to the rate hikes.

Are we out of the woods yet and what's the outlook for 2023?
Growth expectations have fluctuated through the year as have growth rates skewed by pandemic base effects (real GDP grew 4.1% in the January to March quarter, followed by 13.5% in April to June, before halving to 6.3% between July and September). However, the Indian economy has displayed a broad resilience amid strong external headwinds thanks to a consistently growing farm sector and consumers catching up on pent-up demand for contact-intensive services that have now recovered to pre-COVID levels. The World Bank recently scaled up its 2022-23 growth estimate to 6.9%. By all accounts, however, growth is expected to be slower in the coming year (2023-24) at around 6% or slightly under.

Most developed nations are expected to enter a recession, which will dent demand for India's exports. With the Ukraine conflict far from over, fresh fears of a new COVID-19 variant spreading its wings, little hope of an immediate pause in global monetary tightening and the RBI's warning of the next financial crisis emerging from private cryptocurrencies, the risks ahead remain as heady as they were last year.

What is the threat from global COVID rise?

Why has China lifting its zero-COVID policy led to a spurt in cases? How will it impact other countries like India? Is it possible to suppress an epidemic? Are vaccines not working?

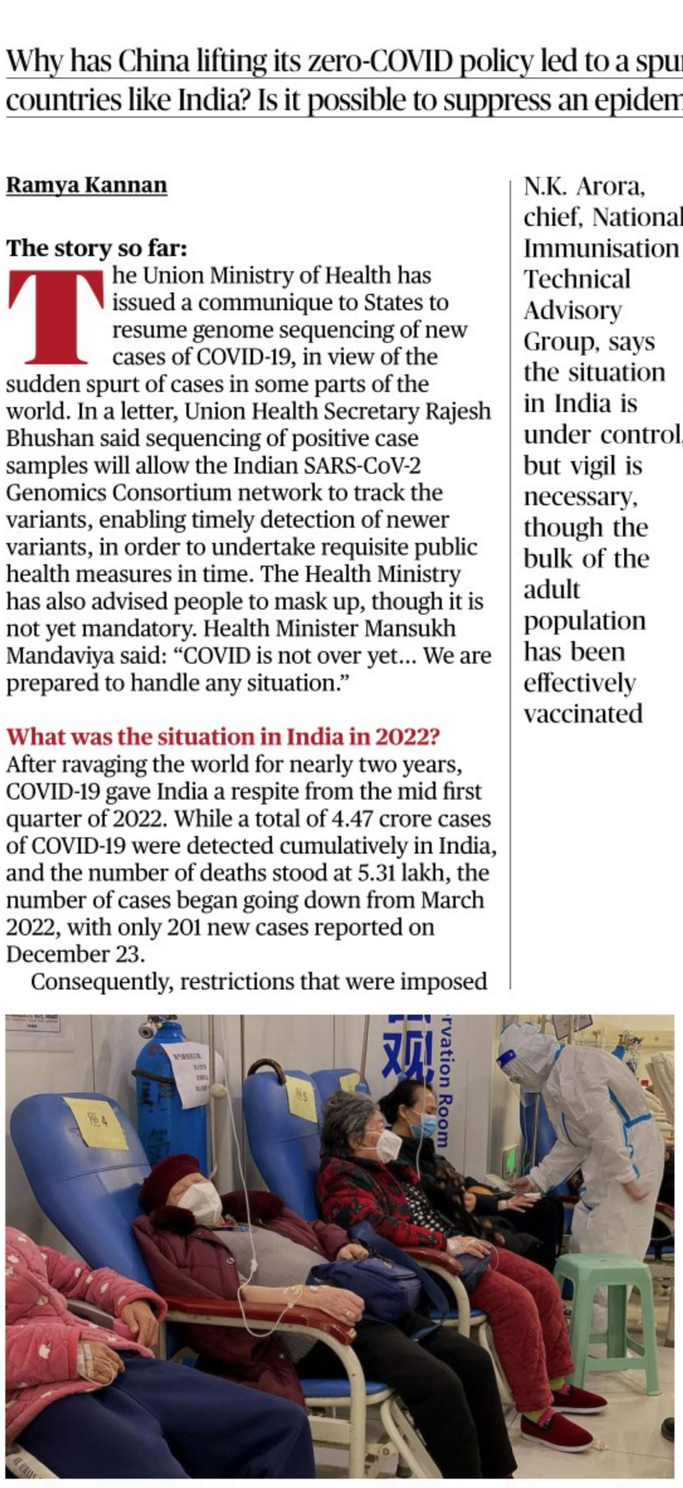
Ramya Kannan

The story so far:
The Union Ministry of Health has issued a communique to States to resume genome sequencing of new cases of COVID-19, in view of the sudden spurt of cases in some parts of the world. In a letter, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said sequencing of positive case samples will allow the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium network to track the variants, enabling timely detection of newer variants, in order to undertake requisite public health measures in time. The Health Ministry has also advised people to mask up, though it is not yet mandatory. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said: "COVID is not over yet... We are prepared to handle any situation."

What was the situation in India in 2022?
After ravaging the world for nearly two years, COVID-19 gave India a respite from the mid first quarter of 2022. While a total of 4.47 crore cases of COVID-19 were detected cumulatively in India, and the number of deaths stood at 5.31 lakh, the number of cases began going down from March 2022, with only 201 new cases reported on December 23.

Consequently, restrictions that were imposed on public movement in the country were eased out. With the Indian government removing the Air Suvidha notification for international travel, end November, the last vestige of the pandemic protocol, was shed.

N.K. Arora, chief, National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group, says the situation in India is under control, but vigil is necessary, though the bulk of the adult population has been effectively vaccinated



Swelling numbers: The rise in COVID cases in China is partly because of the population size and the fact that the people were not exposed to the virus. AFP

What is the global situation?
In the U.S., a trifecta of viruses – Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Influenza and COVID-19 – led to a rising number of respiratory infection cases since September, accelerating post November.

In China, the number of cases began to soar as it dropped its zero-COVID policy and lifted all restrictions, in response to unprecedented protests. Because of the sheer size of the population and the fact that the nation had not been exposed properly to the natural march of the virus, there has been a massive surge end of the year. It has reached a stage where the doubling time was just a few hours, according to some reports. This has apparently rendered it impossible to calculate the R Number (an indication of how fast the infection is spreading) anymore.

Simultaneously in Brazil, Korea and Japan, rising numbers have been a source of concern.

What happened in China?
Chennai-based infectious diseases specialist Subramanian Swaminathan says with its polar approaches, China made mistakes in handling the epidemic. "From stringent restrictions that were imposed thanks to a zero-COVID policy, they opened up, (because the public was getting restive), without any step down or gradual easing of restrictions. This can be very dangerous in health care."

It is also impossible to suppress an epidemic, he explains. Every pandemic will 'equilibrate', and over a period of time, level out infection levels across the world. It is not possible for some areas in the world to have a large number of cases, and others stop with low numbers.

He concurs with epidemiologists who say "China's vaccine is probably not great in neutralising the current variant, and vaccination coverage in the 60-plus group is poor." China also has low hybrid immunity, which is immunity granted by the twin factors of natural infection and vaccination, since it artificially suppressed the waves of COVID-19 with harsh restrictions, he says.

Eric Feigl-Ding is an epidemiologist and health economist whose health forecasts since early 2020 have been unfathomably close to reality, though they were initially termed alarmist. He has predicted a rising tsunami of cases. He believes that China will have about 80 crore infections in a matter of three months, i.e. 60% of its population will be impacted. He goes on to quote emerging reports from China of hospitalisations soaring, and long queues outside crematoria.

What are the future implications for India?
N.K. Arora, chief, National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group, said that the situation in India is under control, but vigil is necessary. The bulk of the adult population has been vaccinated, he said. About 70% of the country has been fully vaccinated, though booster vaccination is flagging.

He added that almost all the sub-variants of Omicron found across the world were circulating in India as well, and no alarming situation has emerged so far.

Dr. Subramanian says the BF.7 variant, the latest one, was said to have an R Number of 10, which is pretty high. "However, this has not led to a high number of cases as evidenced by very little or no hospitalisations for COVID-19 over the past months. Nevertheless, the way ahead for India is to take up aggressive booster vaccination, and also look at rolling out the nasal vaccine that curbs transmission." The government has just sanctioned the use of nasal vaccine for the 18-plus group as a booster. In a scenario where the number of tests has dropped (the total number of daily tests in India is at 1,15,734, against high prevalence States conducting a lakh or more tests daily during the peaks), he recommends conducting waste water surveillance for monitoring community infections.

Chandrakant Lahariya, vaccines and public health expert, says there is no reason to panic, but points out that initiating genomic surveillance is a good idea. "In the current situation no two countries are comparable, particularly in terms of natural infection load and vaccination coverage. India has good hybrid immunity." He, however, cautions that one needs to remain alert, particularly in terms of surveillance, considering that the true position hardly emerges from China.

America's missile defence umbrella

Patriot system

By announcing that it would send its most advanced ground-based defence battery to Kyiv, the U.S. is deepening its involvement in the Ukraine war and is sending a strong message to Russia

Stanly Johny

When Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine on February 24, not many thought that the war would last this long. But 10 months later, it is still raging with surprisingly high-performing Ukrainian troops maintaining the offensive pressure against the Russians on the frontlines in the east and the south. Military and financial support from the West, particularly the United States, has been critical in Ukraine's successful counteroffensive.

When the war began, the U.S. mobilised the West under its leadership against Russia and imposed tight sanctions on Moscow, besides sending ammunition to Ukraine. Months later, after Ukraine lost territories along the border region, including Mariupol, Severodonetsk and Lysychansk, the U.S. decided to send medium-range rocket systems such as HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems) and MLRS (multiple launch rocket systems), which helped Ukraine turn around the battlefield momentum. After suffering setbacks in Kharkiv and Kherson, Russia launched a new phase of air strikes, targeting military and energy infrastructure in Ukraine, which strengthened Kyiv's calls for advanced defence systems. After much debate, the U.S. finally announced that it would send the Patriot, its most advanced ground-based air defence system, to Ukraine. U.S. President Joe Biden made the formal announcement, as part of a new $1.8 billion aid package, when his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky visited Washington last week.

The Patriot is one of the most sought-after defence systems and has been deployed in 18 countries, including the U.S. It is operational across the NATO geography and is in high demand in West Asia, where America's allies such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Israel, all facing a common foe in Iran, have been using it. Now, Ukraine can be added to the list. Initially developed as a system to intercept high-flying aircraft, by U.S. aerospace and defence giant Raytheon Technologies Corp., the Patriot (Phased Array Tracking Radar to Intercept on Target) was modified in the 1980s to focus on other threats such as ballistic missiles. The programme's roots can be traced back to the 1960s when the Pentagon was looking to replace the HAWK and Nike-Hercules air defence systems.

Currently, Patriot batteries can defend against ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, jets and "other threats", but it doesn't offer protection against low-flying small drones. A mobile Patriot system includes a control centre, a radar station to detect threats, missile launchers to take out those threats and other support vehicles. It can launch different types of interceptor missiles: The older PAC-1 and PAC-2 interceptors used a blast-fragmentation warhead, while the newer PAC-3 missile has a more advanced hit-to-kill technology.

According to NATO, the Patriot system's radar has a range of over 150 km and it can track over 50 potential targets at the same time. One system typically has eight launchers with each holding between four and 16 ready-to-fire missiles. According to the U.S.-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the U.S. Army is set to replace the legacy Patriot radar, which has a field of view limited to about 120 degrees, "with the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor (LTAMDS), which has 360-degree coverage and multimission applications…"

Trial by fire

Though the Patriot was deployed in Europe in the 1980s against potential threats from the Soviet Union, the system was tested in combat for the first time in the First Gulf war (1990-91.) The batteries were deployed to protect Saudi and Israeli cities against Iraqi aircraft and Scud and al-Husseini short-range ballistic missiles. Throughout the war, Patriot missiles engaged over 40 Iraqi attacks. Its success rate is still debatable, but the war was a trial by fire for the Patriots and its developers. Raytheon would continue to update the weapon, which would be deployed against Iraq again in 2003 during the U.S.'s illegal invasion of the country. During this war, the Patriot's PAC-3 and other interceptors showed a better success rate against the Al-Samoud 2 and Ababil-100 tactical ballistic missiles.

The post-2003 picture is rosier. Israel claims the Patriot has destroyed dozens of missiles and drones in recent years. According to Raytheon, it has intercepted more than 150 ballistic missiles in combat since 2015.

Raytheon has built more than 240 Patriot systems so far. The Patriot production lines are still active, but mostly for supplies for America's partners. One battery could cost over $1 billion – $400 million for the system and about $700 million for the missiles. The advanced PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement costs about $4.1 million apiece. The older PAC-2s cost roughly half of that. Since it's a complex system, its transfer and the training of (Ukrainian) troops to operate it would take time (under normal circumstances, up to six months). According to Reuters, the U.S. is planning to ship the battery to its base in Germany where it would speed-train Ukrainian troops. Each unit needs at least 90 soldiers to operate.

Game changer?

Russia has denounced the U.S. move and threatened consequences, but the Biden administration has maintained that the supply of the Patriot is aimed at strengthening Ukraine's defences, not at escalation. The system could indeed strengthen Ukraine's defences, but it's hardly a game changer. First of all, the full deployment of the Patriot is still months away and Russia will continue to enjoy its air superiority throughout winter. Even when it's fully deployed, one battery can protect only a small territory. Even in that defended territory, Ukraine will have to use the missiles judiciously. "The high cost per missile and the relatively small number of missiles in a battery means that Patriot operators cannot shoot at every target. High-value Russian aircraft and ballistic missiles would be appropriate targets. Shooting $4 million missiles at $250,000 Russian cruise missiles might be justified if those missiles would hit sensitive targets. Shooting a $4 million missile at a $50,000 Iranian Shahed-136 drone would probably not," writes the CSIS.

But what's more significant is the message Washington is sending to Russia. A few days before the war began in February, the U.S. had shut its Embassy in Kyiv and moved the mission to the west, on the Polish border. When Ukrainian forces survived Russia's initial thrust, the U.S.'s appetite for risks grew with more weapons starting to flow in. Then the U.S. started supplying medium-range rockets neutralising Russia's artillery advantage and helping Ukraine beat Russians back in some areas. Now, the U.S. is sending its most advanced defence system. As the war grinds on, the U.S.'s role in it is steadily expanding, even at the risk of escalation. That's the message for the Kremlin.

THE GIST

Initially developed as a system to intercept high-flying aircraft by Raytheon Technologies, the Patriot was modified in the 1980s to focus on other threats such as ballistic missiles

Currently, Patriot batteries can defend against ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, jets and "other threats"

A mobile Patriot system includes a control centre, a radar station to detect threats, missile launchers to take out those threats and other support vehicles

The thinking manager

Lionel Scaloni

After taking charge of Argentina as a caretaker coach in 2018, he has remade the national team an entity that is no longer hesitant in finals

Neeladri Bhattacharjee

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

When Gonzalo Montiel took the final penalty kick against France in the FIFA World Cup final last Sunday at Doha, Lionel Messi, Argentina's captain, sunk to his knees celebrating.

His team had finally become the World Champion in a post-Diego Maradona era, a wait of 36 long years. Another Lionel, in the Argentina camp, broke down in tears, making a failed attempt to hold them back until he was hugged by Leandro Paredes.

Lionel Scaloni is not a head coach who has the aura or reputation of high-profile coaches like Pep Guardiola, Marcelo Bielsa or even Diego Maradona. But steering his way from playing second fiddle to the coach vested with hopes of winning the World Cup to finally winning it in 2022, the 44-year-old is a study of humility, hardwork and patience.

Messi's former teammate has not just assured the legend of a successful return to the national side from retirement but has helped La Albiceleste master the art of performing in high-pressure situations. Beating five-time World Champion and arch-rival Brazil in its own backyard in the Copa America 2021 final, winning the Finalissima (a match against European Champion Italy) and pipping the defending World Champion in Qatar, La Scalonetta (Scaloni's men) have done it all.

In 2018, Jorge Sampaoli, Argentina's head coach, was relieved of his services after a 3-4 loss to France in the round of 16. Scaloni – a man with no prior experience of managing a national team – was made the caretaker manager, instead. Diego Simeone (Atletico Madrid) and Mauricio Pochettino (Tottenham Hotspur) were some of the frontrunners for the post, but Scaloni was assigned the full-time position in 2018. "He had just seven caps, recently turned 40 and no experience… How can you give the national team to Scaloni?" an enraged Maradona, the last captain to bring the World Cup home, had complained then.

That has not aged well.

Scaloni had started playing with local side Newell's Old Boys, a Rosario-based youth academy and football club, which now boasts of having both him and Messi as their products. He also had spells with Mallorca, Racing Santander in Spain, Estudiantes in Argentina and Lazio in Italy. Scaloni and Messi's on-field meeting mid-game came at a friendly match between Argentina and Hungary – one that was the debut match for the former Barcelona forward.

Messi, coming on for Lisandro Lopez just after the hour mark, saw the forward being sent off within 40 seconds, forcing vehement remonstrations from an enraged Scaloni.

Learning from mistakes

One of the biggest qualities of the Santa Fe-born Argentine has been his quick decision-making. Scaloni's enhancement on the national side, both in terms of selection and strategy, has made the team a serial winner. Argentina found solace in Emiliano Martinez whom Scaloni introduced in 2021.

His heroics won the match against Colombia in the Copa America 2021 and also against France in the World Cup final, with the 30-year-old winning the Golden Glove in both tournaments. Scaloni's strategy involves quick attacks against the run of play, as opposed to small passes to build up an attack – something that saw Argentina score some crucial goals in the World Cup, including the second goal by Julian Alvarez against Croatia.

In attack, Scaloni has overseen the rise of two strikers, Lautaro Martinez and Alvarez. Lautaro's failure to find the net and affinity to get trapped offside saw him change his cards on deck, as Alvarez replaced him in the starting XI after the first match – a shock loss to Saudi Arabia. Messi, too, has become more of a pivotal No. 10 who drops deep if needed and starts the counter-attack when the least of chances arrives.

In 2006, Argentina lost to Germany on penalties in the quarterfinals. Scaloni, a player then, could only watch. Sixteen years later, the same team beat the defending champion, France, to win its third World Cup. Unlike the 2014 World Cup or the 2015 Copa America, La Albiceleste no longer chokes in penalties or finals. That, for Scaloni, would be his biggest achievement.

The vice and virtue squad

Gasht-e Ershad

Even if the infamous security unit is disbanded, that alone is unlikely to bring any meaningful change for Iranian women who live under strict religious laws

Sumeda

Triggered by anger over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's morality police back in September, women hit the streets and led a wave of mass anti-government protests that spiralled into one of the biggest challenges to the theocratic regime since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Protests reverberated widely. Hijab once again took centre stage to emerge as a symbol of defiance against the imposition of the veil and the Gasht-e Ershad (guidance patrol), commonly known as morality police, responsible for enforcing the strict Islamic dress code.

After around three months of unrest that left over 400 dead, reports claimed that Iran's Attorney-General Mohammad Jafar Montazeri had hinted at the suspension of the morality police. The spokesperson for Iran's headquarters for Promoting Virtue and Preventing Vice, which oversees the implementation of religious edicts, remarked that the era of the morality police was over. There was, however, no confirmation from the Interior Ministry that runs the squad. Protesters and activists called it hogwash and insisted that there has been no change to restrictive dress rules for women in the country.

Hijab has been an integral part of Iranian politics since the 20th century. In 1936, modernist Reza Shah Pahlavi issued a decree to ban all Islamic veils and headscarves. Women could dress as per their wishes. Then the Islamic Revolution shook Iran.

A familiar sight

Four years after the 1979 revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini established the Islamic rule of Iran and introduced Sharia. In 1983, he made hijab mandatory for all women, irrespective of nationality or religion. Though the clerical leadership was strictly enforcing the rules, a formal force called Gasht-e Ershad was established during the presidency of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to "spread the culture of modesty and hijab". Under the Sharia that governs Iran, women have to cover their hair and wear loose-fitting clothes. Iranian women are prohibited from wearing shorts, ripped jeans, or any other clothing that exposes the shape of their bodies, according to generally acceptable guidelines.

The morality police began patrolling in 2006 and have since been a familiar sight. The role of the units evolved, but the force was primarily tasked to uphold modesty laws and detain those violating the conservative dress code to "promote virtue and prevent vice". A crew would wait in public spaces and scan for 'violators'.

The morality police initially only issued warnings to women, but were later empowered to make arrests for moral code violations even for minor offences like showing a few strands of hair from under the hijab. They were released only after a male relative's assurances.

Over the years, the force has come under heavy criticism for violation of basic rights. It was a controversial issue even for those running for the presidency. Two Presidents, Mohammad Khatami in 1997 and Hassan Rouhani in 2013, promised reform but failed. During the 2009 presidential elections, the need for such a force was debated with reformist candidates calling for its dissolution. They wished for hijab to be a choice and not a compulsion. There was, however, no substantial change.

In July this year, Iran attempted to reinforce the law. President Ebrahim Raisi called for the mobilisation of "all state institutions to enforce the headscarf law" by the use of surveillance tools to monitor and punish unveiled women.

The death of Amini, a Kurdish Iranian, put the morality police back in the global spotlight. The world questioned its conduct for policing women's bodies. The UN imposed sanctions on the force and senior security officials for engaging in "serious human rights abuses". Amid outrage, senior Iranian officials also demanded an investigation.

Uncertainty remains over Iran's morality police, but activists maintain that not much will change for women even if the Guidance Patrol is abolished since Islamic laws still hold that the hijab is mandatory for women. Meanwhile, protests continue in Iran, deepening the internal crisis.

(With inputs from Priyali Prakash)

INBRIEF

PAN not linked to Aadhaar by March set to turn 'inoperative'

The Income Tax department Saturday issued an advisory that those permanent account numbers (PAN) which are not linked with Aadhaar by the end of March next year will be rendered 'inoperative.' "As per Income-tax Act, 1961, it is mandatory for all PAN holders, who do not fall under the exempt category, to link their PAN with Aadhaar before 31.3.2023. From 1.04.2023, the unlinked PAN shall become inoperative," the department said. PTI

Shriram Finance plans to raise up to ₹35,000 crore

Shriram Finance Ltd. is planning to raise up to ₹35,000 crore on a private placement basis to meet its growing business needs. On Saturday, the board gave its approval to raise the money either by way of issue of non-convertible debentures, bonds or debt securities on a private placement basis, subject to shareholder's approval, the NBFC said in a filing. The board declared an interim dividend of ₹15 per share for FY23. It would be paid by January 18.

Bleak winter for Ludhiana's hosiery firms as offtake dips

Ludhiana's famous hosiery cluster in Punjab is staring at losses on account of lower garment offtake because of the delayed winter as it finds repeat orders hard to come by with retailers having already been left with heavy stocks of winter wear. The weak demand has forced the firms to offer discounts in early December to attract retail customers and clear the stock. Some manufacturers, fearing non-clearance of stocks, are offering 10-20% discounts on winter wear. PTI

'Family-run firms are more future-oriented, profitable in the long run and philanthropic'

Such firms tend to outperform non-family businesses, less likely to lay people off despite a potential economic downturn, says Peter Vogel, Director Global Family Business Center at IMD Business School, addressing the Family Business Network chapter of the Confederation of Indian Industry

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Family-run businesses, on an average, are more future-oriented with long-term strategic goals, and more profitable in the long run even as they outperform non-family businesses, according to Peter Vogel, Director Global Family Business Center at the IMD Business School.

"Family businesses are less likely to lay people off despite a potential economic downturn more likely to... engage in philanthropy," Mr. Vogel said, addressing the Family Business Network chapter of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-FBN).

He also pointed out success in multi-generational family enterprises stemmed from resilience and the ability to adapt. He cited their tendency towards, "long-term thinking, financial prudence and deep-rooted values and loyalty."

Credit Suisse, in its annual reports on family-owned businesses, has said that the balance sheets of family firms are typically less leveraged.

"This inherent risk aversion remains the case in our latest data [released in 2018]. This, of course, provided a degree of insulation in [a] financial crisis." It added that they were also inclined to reduce leverage much more quickly during the early years after a crisis.

In its September 2020 report, Credit Suisse had noted that family businesses' "more conservative financial model built on lower leverage and strong cash flow generation has proved an asset".

At the CII session, Mr. Vogel also pointed out areas in which the now-gen – or the current generation – that is actively running the business and the upcoming generation, also referred to as next-gen, could work together on: new entrepreneurial ventures and social responsibility projects that fall under the CSR ambit.

Participants included members from the Kirloskar, Thermax, Forbes Marshall, Ekki, Bajaj, Gits and Rasna families.

"Family businesses dominate key sectors," said Kanishka Arumugam, co-CEO of Ekki Water Technologies and chairman, CII FBN's Next-Gen Committee. "Critical to the successful evolution of any family business is the development and fulfilment of the next-gen members," he added.

Ties that bind

Family-run businesses are, on average, better equipped with long-term strategic goals, says Peter Vogel of IMD Business School

- Family firms less likely to lay people off despite a potential economic downturn: Vogel
- Success in multi-generational family firms stems from resilience, adaptability, says Vogel
- Credit Suisse notes balance sheets of such firms typically less leveraged reflecting an inherent risk aversion

Consumer Affairs Minister Goyal unveils a 'right to repair' portal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday introduced a host of new initiatives, including a right to repair portal and an NTH mobile app and opened new premises of the National Consumer Helpline centre in the national capital.

On the 'right to repair' portal, manufacturers would share the manual of product details with customers so that they could either repair by self, by third parties, rather than

Piyush Goyal

depend on original manufacturers. Initially, mobile phones, electronics, consumer durables, automobile and farming equipments would be covered.

Speaking on the theme "Effective disposal of cases in consumer commission" on the occasion of National Consumer Day, Mr. Goyal lauded the consumer commissions for disposing of higher number of pending cases in last six months and expressed confidence of eliminating the backlog of cases across the country.

"In a short span of six months, we have doubled disposal of pending cases. About 90,000 pending cases were disposed (between July and November this year)," he said. About 38,000 pending cases were disposed of by consumer courts in the year-earlier period.

Mr. Goyal added there would be a ramp up in disposal of pending cases and elimination of the backlog in the days to come.

Consumer empowerment will be a paramount feature of a developed India and calls for keeping consumers at the centre of all initiatives, he said.

Under the Consumer Protection law, a complaint is required to be disposed of within 90 days of filing and within 150 days wherever expert evidence is required to be taken.

Drone start-up Garuda Aerospace gets DGCA approvals

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Drone start-up Garuda Aerospace Private Ltd. said it has received Type Certification and Remote Pilot Training Organisation approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the company's Kisan drones.

"We have become India's first drone start-up to get these approvals," said Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder and CEO.

"The elusive double certification by DGCA is a testament to our indigenous Made-in-India drone manufacturing capacities," added Mr. Jayaprakash.

"We have strong demand to manufacture 5,000 drones in the next five months," disclosed the Founder-CEO.

Jewellery retailer Tanishq adopts two-pronged strategy to double large format stores

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Jewellery retailer Tanishq is planning to adopt a two-pronged strategy to double the number of large format stores (LFS) in the country by March 2024 and also release the next version of Chola-themed jewellery collection soon, according to a company official.

"Currently, we have about 50 large format stores in the country and are planning to double the number," said Sharad, regional busines head, South, Titan Co. Ltd, after opening a renovated store in Chennai.

Tanishq now had 400 retail outlets in India of which 46 were in Tamil Nadu. The company said it intended to open about 40-50 stores.

According to him, some of the existing stores would be reintroduced as LFS after renovation.

Besides, the company was also planning to introduce clusters of Tanishq, Titan Watches, Titan Eye and Fastrack units in various places.

The idea here was to cater to a large number of customers at one go and also to offer a wide choice to them, he said.

Stating they experienced overwhelming success with the recently-unveiled Chola-themed jewellery, he said in 60 days, they had sold about 1,000 pieces.

"It was the best ever sales. It exceeded our expectations. It was well received from customers spanning from metros to smaller towns during Deepavali. For Pongal, we will launch new collections."

Enthused by the response, Tanishq is planning to coming out with a second version of Chola-themed jewellery which would be 15-20% lighter in weight at an affordable prices to attract a large base of customers.

Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital mulls ₹730-cr. plan to expand

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital Ltd. on Saturday said it is planning to invest about ₹730 crore in India and abroad over the next three years to create 38 new hospitals and more than 100 primary eye-care centres.

"As part of our expansion strategy, we will open 35 more hospitals in India and one each in Tanzania, Kenya and Nigeria," said CEO Adil Agarwal.

The investment in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu would be ₹200 crore each, Gujarat ₹150 crore and Kerala ₹100 crore for setting up 10 eye care centres. Overseas investment would be about ₹80 crore.

He said they had raised ₹1,050 crore from TPG Growth for the expansion.

Focus on smart cities driving rapid growth of connected lighting: Signify

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

India is a fast-growing market for connected lighting systems with several state governments, local bodies and sports authorities increasingly showing interest, said Netherlands-based Signify, formerly Philips Lighting.

Signify, that currently has more than 109 million connected light points around the globe, including in India, attributed the rapid growth to rising focus on smart cities.

Connected lighting systems comprise light fixtures that have sensors and are connected to a network allowing them to send and receive data.

Gregory Nelson

"In the future, we expect healthy growth in this segment, as more and more municipal bodies start adopting smart city infrastructure," Gregory Nelson, Global Business Leader, Professional Systems & Services at Signify, told *The Hindu*.

The city of Pune, Naya Raipur Development Authority in Chhattisgarh and New Delhi Municipal Council have been pioneers in adopting such systems in the country.

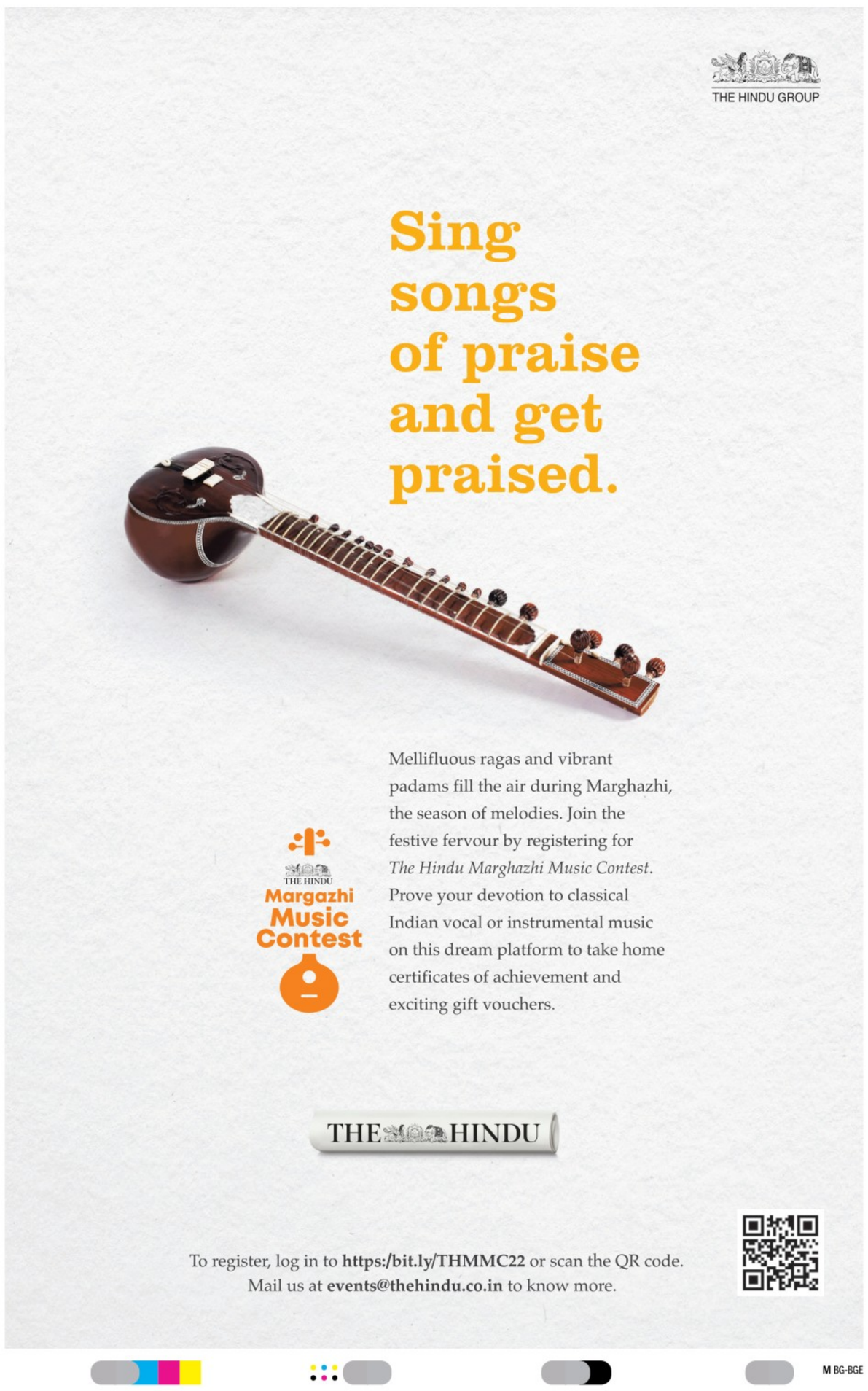
Harvesting data

More importantly, deployers were also able to harvest valuable and dependable data from connected lighting systems that could be used in decision-making, he added.

"Quality data is emerging out of these lighting systems that are capable of driving decision making."

Signify's innovation labs in Bengaluru employs more than 500 engineers and much of the development for smart cities is done out of here. "We are in the process of expanding this team by adding 150 engineers," he added.

India's LED lighting market size alone was valued at $1.35 billion in 2021 and is expected to reach $2.68 billion by 2029, according to GreyViews, a market research firm.



TAKING OVER

Shahid Afridi named PCB's interim chief selector

The Pakistan Cricket Board has named former captain Shahid Afridi as interim chief selector of the men's team and ex-internationals Abdul Razzaq and Rao Iftikhar as members of the selection panel. Najam Sethi, new chairman of the PCB's management committee, dissolved the previous committee that was headed by Mohammad Wasim.

FRUSTRATED

Warner fires shot at CA over leadership appeal

David Warner accused Cricket Australia of a lack of support in his appeal against a lifetime leadership ban and revealed he struggled mentally during the recent series against the West Indies. He launched a bid to overturn the sanction in February but gave up the fight on the eve of the second Test against the West Indies in Adelaide this month.

TIME TO MOVE ON

2018 World Cup winner Matuidi announces retirement

France World Cup winner Blaise Matuidi announced his retirement from football on Friday. The 35-year-old Matuidi won the World Cup in 2018 and made the last of his 84 appearances for Les Bleus three years ago. "Football, I loved you so much. Football, you gave me so much, but the time has come to say stop," Matuidi wrote on Twitter.

ELEVATED CARE

Pele's family members gather at hospital in Sao Paulo

Brazilian football great Pele's family members are gathering at the Albert Einstein hospital in Sao Paulo where the 82-year-old has been admitted since the end of November. Doctors said earlier this week that Pele's cancer had advanced, adding he is under "elevated care" related to "kidney, cardiac dysfunctions."

Bangladesh hits back to leave India on a shaky wicket chasing a modest target

The home team turns things around with spirited displays from Zakir and Litton; off-spinner Mehidy claims three wickets in India's second innings as it finishes day three on 45 for four, still needing 100 runs for a victory

INDIA IN BANGLADESH

N. Sudarshan
MIRPUR

Even as the shadows started lengthening at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium here on Saturday, there was little to no inkling of any result other than an Indian victory.

There was, of course, resistance from the Bangladesh batters in their second innings, with Litton Das (73, 98b, 7x4) and Zakir Hasan (51, 135b, 4x5) coming up with spirited displays to take the target up to 145.

However, on a pitch that was not necessarily crumbling, chasing a sub-150 score should have been straightforward. India has, after all, lost only once before pursuing a total this small – to the West Indies at Bridgetown back in 1997, all out for 81 chasing 120.

Key strike: An elated Mehidy celebrates Kohli's wicket, one of his three on Saturday evening. AP

Manic final hour

But that was until Bangladesh sought to tell a different story. In what was a manic final hour, the home bowlers set the cat among the pigeons by first reducing India to 29 for three and then adding the prized scalp of Virat Kohli to leave the visitors at 45 for four at close and the game tantalisingly poised.

With still 100 needed, India has two non-specialist batters at the crease, but with first-innings heroes in Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer still to come. Southpaw Axar Patel, sent in to bat at No. 4 to disrupt the left-arm spinners Shakib Al Hasan and Taijul Islam, was unbeaten on 26 (54b, 3x4) alongside Jaydev Unadkat, who came in at the fall of Kohli.

The wrecker-in-chief was off-spinner Mehidy Hasan (8-3-12-3), who has made it a habit all tour to arrive fashionably late and gate-crash the visiting side's party. Each of the four top-order batters trusted their defence, and perished.

Skipper K.L. Rahul was the first to walk the forlorn path back to the pavilion, out caught behind off Shakib for his seventh straight score below 25. Cheteshwar Pujara and Shubman Gill both advanced down the track to Mehidy, only to find themselves in no man's land, and were duly stumped by Nurul Hasan.

Kohli lent forward to defend on the off-side, only for the ball to take the edge and go low to short-leg where Mominul Haque snapped it up to trigger wild celebrations. Kohli wasn't happy with a few words that were said, remonstrating with captain Shakib. As to whose will be the parting shot will be known on Sunday morning.

Earlier, when Bangladesh was 71 for four at lunch, still 16 runs in the red, the contest had seemed done and dusted. Zakir had held one end up, but got little support. But Litton's brisk partnerships for the seventh and eighth wickets, with Nurul (46 runs) and Taskin Ahmed (60 runs) respectively, ensured a decent total to bowl at.

India was also shoddy on the field, with the usually reliable Kohli missing three clear-cut chances at first slip, two off Litton and one off Nurul. Still, at that point, none seemed enough to cause a sharp turnaround in fortunes for Bangladesh. But by sunset, the hosts had flipped the script to leave India on shaky ground.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH — 1ST INNINGS
227 in 73.5 overs.

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
314 in 86.3 overs.

BANGLADESH — 2ND INNINGS
Najmul Hossain lbw b Ashwin 5 *(31b, 1x4)*, Zakir Hasan c Siraj b Umesh 51 *(135b, 5x4)*, Mominul Haque c Pant b Siraj 5 *(9b, 1x4)*, Shakib Al Hasan c Gill b Unadkat 13 *(36b, 1x4)*, Mushfiqur Rahim lbw b Axar 9 *(19b)*, Litton Das b Siraj 73 *(98b, 7x4)*, Mehidy Hasan lbw b Axar 0 *(5b)*, Nurul Hasan st Pant b Axar 31 *(29b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Taskin Ahmed (not out) 31 *(46b, 4x4)*, Taijul Islam lbw b Ashwin 1 *(5b)*, Khaled Ahmed run out 4 *(9b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, lb-6, w-1): 8; Total (in 70.2 overs): 231.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Najmul, 7.6 overs), 2-26 (Mominul, 12.5), 3-51 (Shakib, 24.4), 4-70 (Mushfiqur, 31.1), 5-102 (Zakir, 42.4), 6-113 (Mehidy, 45.3), 7-159 (Nurul, 53.3), 8-219 (Litton, 66.1), 9-220 (Taijul, 67.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Umesh 9-1-32-1, Ashwin 22-2-66-2, Unadkat 9-3-17-1, Siraj 11-0-41-2, Axar 19.2-1-68-3.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Shubman Gill st Nurul b Mehidy 7 *(35b)*, K.L. Rahul c Nurul b Shakib 2 (7b), Cheteshwar Pujara st. Nurul b Mehidy 6 *(12b, 1x4)*, Axar Patel (batting) 26 *(54b, 3x4)*, Virat Kohli c Mominul b Mehidy 1 *(22b)*, Jaydev Unadkat (batting) 3 *(8b)*; Total (for four wkts. in 23 overs): 45.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-3 (Rahul, 2.1), 2-12 (Pujara, 7.1), 3-29 (Gill, 13.2), 4-37 (Kohli, 19.5).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Shakib 6-0-21-1, Taijul 8-4-8-0, Mehidy 8-3-12-3, Taskin 1-0-4-0.

This target is enough for a win, says Litton Das

Optimistic: Litton reckons India will be under pressure if a couple of wickets fall early on Sunday. AP

N. Sudarshan
MIRPUR

Bangladesh's second-innings top-scorer Litton Das said that the 145-run target was eminently defendable, though his side would have liked a cushion of 60 to 70 runs more.

"We always know how hard it is to bat in the fourth innings in Mirpur," he said, at the end of Saturday's play. "We knew that we had to give them a 200-220 target. The score that we actually put up, it is still difficult. They will be under pressure if we take one or two quick wickets. I think this target is enough for a win."

But that confidence will always come punctuated with the fact that India still has Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant to come.

"If Rishabh bats like he usually does, it will be difficult. [But] No matter how big a batter you are, if you don't have wickets behind you, it is hard. Rishabh and [Shreyas] Iyer are definitely good players but they will be under pressure."

India pacer Mohammed Siraj remained confident of emerging victorious.

"We may have lost two wickets more than we should have and conceded some 30 runs extra, but we shouldn't be worried," he said. "Axar [Patel] is set and showing good intent. There is still Rishabh and Shreyas to come. So we don't need to worry."

Kane Williamson will bat at No. 3 for Titans, says franchise head coach Nehra

'The Kiwi star brings a lot to any team, not just GT, and we are privileged to have him, that too at base price; we would have gone for him even for a higher sum because we believe in him'

INTERVIEW

Ashish Nehra

Amol Karhadkar
KOCHI

Sunrisers Hyderabad parted ways with Kane Williamson after retaining the Kiwi captain as its captain for the Indian Premier League's 2022 edition. At a time when doubts have emerged on Williamson's future as a T20I cricketer, defending champion Gujarat Titans pounced on him right at the start of the IPL Player Auction on Friday.

Titans' head coach Ashish Nehra explained the rationale behind Williamson's addition in a freewheeling chat with a group of journalists after the conclusion of the auction. *Excerpts:*

How did you plan the Titans' first mini-auction wherein primarily you had to fill in a few gaps?

First you have to see how much funds you have. Then on the auction table, you will never get all the first-choice players. We were lucky that more or less we got them and still had some money left.

We knew at the start that we couldn't go for the likes of Green or Sam Curran because they were going to fetch a big price. We are delighted to have been able to fill up the spots that we had to. I was actually pleasantly surprised that we got Kane Williamson at such a low price.

What does Kane Williamson bring to the team?

Williamson. AP

Experience, to begin with. He is a proven player. He has dealt with elbow issues over the last couple of seasons and didn't have an excellent last season. But of course, with the fast-paced nature of the T20 game, teams do tend to think differently. But for us, we would have gone for him even for a higher sum because we believe in him. You have to have the combination of experience and youth. Kane Williamson brings a lot to any team, not just GT. We are privileged to have him, that too at base price.

So are you looking at him as a regular member of the XI?

Yes, of course. Somebody like Kane Williamson, you are looking at batting at No. 3.

Sai Sudharsan was tried out at No. 3 last year and he has had an exceptional domestic season so far. How difficult will it be for him to make way for Williamson?

It's difficult for any player but you are referring to a youngster like Sudharsan who has a long way to go. With Williamson in the team, it will help him immensely. Maybe he will get fewer games – even last year he didn't play every game – but just imagine the amount of learning Sudharsan will earn while working with Williamson. Every player has to wait for his chance and Sudharsan knows that. Last year, because of injuries, almost everyone got a chance. Even the likes of Darshan Nalkande and Pradeep Sangwan got game-time and they did really well. That is the hallmark of GT that the majority of players excelled whenever given opportunities.

Sasikumar Mukund to spearhead Davis team

All set: Sasikumar and Ramkumar were selected in the team, while Nagal was named reserve. FILE PHOTO

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The selection committee of the All India Tennis Association, with Nandan Bal as the Chairman, has announced a five-member team for the Davis Cup World Group play-off tie to be played against Denmark at Hillerod, Denmark, on February 4 and 5.

Sasikumar Mukund, Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Ramkumar Ramanathan, Rohan Bopanna and Yuki Bhambri will be the team.

The former No.1 player, Sumit Nagal has been named as the reserve.

Balram Singh and Sai Jayalakshmy were the other selectors, while captain Rohit Rajpal, coach Zeeshan Ali and AITA secretary general Anil Dhupar, were also part of the virtual meeting.

The team: Sasikumar Mukund, Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Ramkumar Ramanathan, Rohan Bopanna, Yuki Bhambri.

Reserve: Sumit Nagal. **Captain:** Rohit Rajpal.

Karachi to host NZ series, says PCB

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

New Zealand will play all its matches in the upcoming tour of Pakistan in Karachi after the PCB was forced to reschedule the fixtures due to adverse weather conditions in the Punjab province.

The decision was taken after a mutual agreement between New Zealand Cricket (NZC) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The PCB said it came to the decision considering the fact that foggy weather conditions have already disrupted flight operations from Multan and may also result in loss of playing hours.

The first Test was scheduled in Karachi while the second Test was to be hosted by Multan. The PCB has also scheduled the three-match ODI series after the two-Test series in Karachi.

Pakistan will take on New Zealand in the opening Test beginning Dec. 26.

INBRIEF

Rashford signs new deal with Manchester United

Manchester United attacker Marcus Rashford has signed a contract extension that will keep him at the club until 2024, the English outfit announced on Saturday. The new contract on a reported £250,000-a-week plus bonuses, makes him the highest-paid English player in the Premier League, according to the *Independent*. The 25-year-old agreed a new deal alongside Diogo Dalot, Fred and Luke Shaw with the four players' current contract up at the end of the season.

Former Formula One driver Streiff passes away aged 67

Former Formula One driver Philippe Streiff passed away aged 67, F1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali said in a statement on Saturday. Frenchman Streiff started 53 Grands Prix and raced for Renault, Ligier, Tyrrell and AGS during his F1 career, which began in 1984. He earned his only podium finish in 1985 with Ligier. A pre-season testing crash in Brazil in 1989 left him paralysed and curtailed his career.

Veteran coach Ranieri returns to Cagliari

Former Leicester and Chelsea coach Claudio Ranieri has been appointed Cagliari boss, the Serie B club said on Friday. He will be attached to the club till JUne 2025. Ranieri, 71, returns to Sardinia after guiding it to Serie A promotion in 1990 before helping outsider Leicester to the Premier League title 26 years later. His first game in charge during his second spell at Cagliari, 14th in the table, will be on January 14 as they host Como in the second tier. Ranieri has been out of work since January when he was sacked by English club Watford after less than three months in charge.

Venugopal stars for Pinakini in basketball league

S. Venugopal (19 points) helped Pinakini (Gowribidanur) defeat YFBC (Kolar) 58-44 in the State rural men's basketball league in Bengaluru.

The results: VBC (Mandya) 43 (Shashank Raj 14, Darshan Gowda 12) bt Kanka (Kolar) 26 (Vishawanth 10, Thilak 10); Pinakini (Gowribidanur) 58 (S. Venugopal 19, Ravichandra 9) bt YFBC (Kolar) 44 (Janardhan 14, Bharath 10).

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs India: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9 a.m.

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 10.30 p.m.

Jyoti beats back Minakshi's challenge to make the 52kg semifinals

Shashi wards off Nikarika; Monika gets the better of Alfiya; Lovlina and Nikhat also make the last four

NATIONAL BOXING

Sports Bureau

Former World youth champions Jyoti Gulia (52kg) and Shashi Chopra (63kg) recorded hard-fought wins in their respective categories to reach the semifinals of the National women's boxing championships in Bhopal on Saturday.

Keen contest

Jyoti defeated current Asian championships silver medallist Minakshi Hooda 4-3 in a keenly-contested fight, which was decided following a review of the bout.

Shashi overcame former World junior medallist Nikarika Gonella with a 4-1 verdict.

In another important quarterfinal bout, Monika ousted Asian champion Alfiya Pathan 4-0 in the +81kg category.

Olympic Games bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) and World champion Nikhat Zareen (50kg) also sailed into the last-four.

Take that! Monika, right, proved too good for Alfiya. *Right:* Jyoti's, left, victory over Minakshi was decided following a review of the bout.A.M. FARUQUI

Important results (quarterfinals): 48kg: Anjali Sharma (MP) bt Nikita (Har) 4-1, Manju Rani (RSPB) bt Simran (Chd) 5-0, S. Kalaivani (TN) bt Sanju (AIP) 4-3. **50kg:** Nikhat Zareen (Tel) bt Taniksha Chawar (Goa) RSC-R2, Shivnder Kaur Sidhu (AIP) bt Ashalata Chanu (Man) 5-0. **52kg:** Jyoti Gulia (RSPB) bt Minakshi Hooda (AIP) 4-3, Sakshi Chaudhary (SSCB) bt Rosemary Chanu (Man) RSC-R2. **54kg:** Shiksha (RSPB) bt Ojibala Devi (Man) 5-0. **57kg:** Vinakshi (HP) bt Mandeep Kaur (Pun) 5-0, Sonia Lather (RSPB) bt Sonu (AIP) 5-0. **60kg:** Simranjit Kaur (Pun) bt Barbi Gogoi (Asm) RSC-R2. **63kg:** Shashi Chopra (RSPB) bt Nikarika Gonella (Tel) 4-1, Mahi Lamba (MP) bt Sneha Kumari (HP) 4-3. **66kg:** Manju Bombaria (MP) bt Deepika (HP) 5-0, Ankushita Boro (Asm) bt Sonam (UP) RSC-R2, Parveen Hooda (AIP) bt Mannu Nimawat (Chd) 5-0. **70kg:** Sanamacha Chanu (Man) bt Kusum (Har) 5-0, Lalita (Raj) bt Kalawanti (AIP) 3-2, Jyoti (RSPB) bt Anjali Tushir (Del) 4-1, Shruti Yadav (MP) bt Astha Pahwa (UP) 3-2. **75kg:** Arundhati Chaudhary (SSCB) bt Vidhi Rawal (Mah) RSC-R1, Lovlina Borgohain (Asm) bt Meena Rani (RSPB) 5-0. **81kg:** Saweety Boora (Har) bt Diksha Rajput (Pun) RSC-R2, Anupama (RSPB) bt Sakshi Gaidhani (Mah) 5-0. **+81kg:** Lipakshi (Raj) bt Parveen (Pun) 4-1, Monika (AIP) bt Alfiya Pathan (Mah) 4-0.

Mumbai City edges Chennaiyin, retains the top spot

ISL-9

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC continued its unbeaten run in the Indian Super League (ISL) as it defeated Chennaiyin FC 2-1 at the Mumbai Football Arena on Saturday to remain on top of the points table. Though Chennaiyin FC dominated quite a bit of the first half of the gane and even took a lead in the 34th minute with Petar Sliskovic scoring his sixth goal of the season, Lallianzuala Chhangte helped Mumbai City FC equalise four minutes later.

In control: Mumbai FC found its mojo as the game progressed to emerge victorious. FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

Jittery

The Mumbai outfit looked jittery initially as Chennaiyin FC played a lot of passes and built up from the back.

But as the game progressed, the Islanders slowly found their mojo.

And with scores level at 1-1 at the half-time, Mumbai City FC looked rejuvenated in the second period and took the lead in the 57th minute, as Greg Stewart found the target from the six-yard.

It was a great movement from the left wing with Bipin Singh passing it inside the box and Stewart making no mistake in taking a shot on goal.

Missed chance

Chennaiyin, however, had a chance of equalising within a few minutes as Barretto dragged it back towards the edge of the box, but the shot by Anirudh Thapa, who came in as a substitute for Sourav Das, went wide.

Mumbai City FC, too, had the opportunity of extending its lead, as Ahmed Jahouh took a freekick and passed it on to Stewart, who tried to pass the ball square but it was too close to Chennaiyin goalie Samik Mitra.

In the 78th minute, a Fallou Diagne shot was well saved by Mumbai custodian Phurba Lachenpa.

After being thumped 2-6 in its previous outing, Chennaiyin hoped for a turnaround, but it was not to be.

The results:
Mumbai City FC 2 (Lallianzuala Chhangte 38, Greg Stewart 57) bt Chennaiyin FC 1 (Petar Sliskovic 34); NEUFC 1 (Wilmar Jordan 69) bt ATK MB 0..

Nitin beats Mendonca, shares the lead

NATIONAL CHESS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Bespectacled S. Nitin is a seasoned International Master but may not have visualised nailing fourth seeded GM Leon Mendonca by prompting his helpless king into a checkmating net. In what turned out to be the biggest upset of the third round of the 59th MPL National chess championship, Nitin needed only 36 moves to inflict an embarrassing defeat on the young talent and stayed in the lead at three points with seven others.

Hat-trick of wins

Others who completed a hat-trick of victories were, top seed S.P. Sethuraman, Abhijeet Gupta, Aronyak Ghosh, Koustav Chatterjee, P. Iniyan, G.B. Harshvardhan and Vedant Panesar.

Grandmasters Karthik Vekataraman, Mitrabha Guha, Deep Sengupta, P. Karthikeyan and Neelotpal Das were engaged in drawn encounters and became part of a 25-player pack placed half-a-point behind the leaders' group.

Swapnil Dhopade, seeded 11, gave a walkover to Bharat Reddy while fellow Grandmasters M.R. Venkatesh, and R.R. Laxman were involved in drawn encounters.

Meanwhile, for GM Deepan Chakkravarthy, the search for a victory resulted in his first defeat after he blundered a knight against Manipur's veteran Imocha Laishram and resigned immediately.

Leading results: Third round: S.P. Sethuraman (3) bt S. Ajay Krishna (2); Abhijeet Gupta (3) bt Shahil Dey (2); S. Nitin (3) bt Leon Mendonca (2); Aronyak Ghosh (3) bt Sanket Chakravarty (2); L. Srihari (2) lost to Koustav Chatterjee (2); P. Iniyan (3) bt B. Sekar (2); Vardaan Nagpal (2.5) drew with Karthik Venkataraman (2.5); P. Shyaamnikhil (2.5) drew with Utsab Chatterjee (2.5); Subhayan Kundu (2.5) drew with Mitrabha Guha (2.5); Deep Sengupta (2.5) drew with Utkal Ranjan Sahoo (2.5); V.A.V. Rajesh (2.5) drew with C.R.G. Krishna (2.5); J. Akshit Kkumar (2) lost to G. B. Harshvardhan (3); Mohammad Nubairshah Shaikh (2.5) drew with V.S. Raahul (2.5); Mehar Chinna Reddy (2.5) drew with P. Karthikeyan (2.5); Dere Pushkar (2) lost to Vedant Panesar (3); Neelotpal Das (2.5) drew with Krishnan Ritvik (2.5).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Double delight for Siddharth Gunturi

Siddharth Gunturi claimed a double in the boys' under-16 section of the Puyvast Shipping Pvt. Ltd. 17th Ramesh Padukone Mehul Sirur Memorial inter-school memorial badminton tournament here.

The results: Finals: Boys: U-10: Daksh Dhotrad bt Yajath Gowda 21-19, 18-21, 21-11.

U-12: C. Vihaan bt Adrien Edward 21-11, 21-7.

Doubles: Gautham Nair & Siddharth Nair bt Aryan Raghavan & C. Vihaan 21-17, 21-13.

U-14: M. Pranav bt Kushal Athreya 21-13, 21-11.

Doubles: C. Vihaan & M. Pranav bt R. Pradyot & Shaurya Mundhra 21-19, 21-15.

U-16: Siddharth Gunturi bt Kaustub Gautham 21-18, 21-14.

Doubles: Arnav Shukla/Siddharth Gunturi bt Kaustub Gautham/M. Pranav 21-16, 21-15.

Girls: U-10: B. Janyashree bt Vrishti Kaveramma 23-21, 21-12.

U-12: Shreya Kandibilla bt Keerthi Balaji 21-18, 18-21, 21-15; **Doubles:** Shreya Kandibilla/Vrishti Kaveramma bt Aarna Sagar/Aditi Bailur 21-9, 21-8.

U-14: Tanya Bijoy bt Anika Teja Narayana 19-21, 21-17, 21-18; **Doubles:** Selvita Seridena & Tanya Bijoy bt Mrudula Acharya & Shreya Kandibilla 21-18, 21-19.

U-16: S. Haritha bt A.S. Mounitha 18-21, 21-9, 21-12.

Doubles: S. Supraja & Sanjana Sanjay bt K. Lamya & R. Rishitha 21-10, 21-7.

Naveen HC 'A' posts win

Naveen HC 'A' defeated Team Wildboar 2-1 in the KSHA 'B' division hockey league here.

The result: Naveen HC 'A' 2 (Amal 7, Mohzin 47) bt Team Wildboar 1 (P.C. Vishal 34).

Astion Villa boss Emery will speak to Martinez about WC celebrations

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Aston Villa manager Unai Emery will speak to Emiliano Martinez about the Argentina goalkeeper's controversial World Cup celebrations when he returns to club duty with the Premier League side.

Martinez made a key save to deny Randal Kolo Muani in extra-time and then denied Kingsley Coman in a penalty shoot-out in Qatar as Argentina beat France in a thrilling final.

But he was seen making a crude gesture after winning the golden glove trophy for the best goalkeeper at the tournament.

Then, during Argentina's victory parade in Buenos Aires, he was seen holding a baby doll with its face covered by a photograph of Kylian Mbappe.

Martinez.AP

"When you have big emotion, sometimes it is difficult to control it," Emery told reporters on Friday. "I will speak to him next week about some celebrations. We are so proud of him. He won the World Cup with his national team and it's amazing.

"He's coming back next week. I want him to rest now because after big emotion and hard work, he has to have some days off to rest then he'll come back to work with us."

French sports minister Amelie Oudea-Castera, speaking earlier Friday, was scathing about Martinez's conduct.

Crystal Palace manager Patrick Vieira said Martinez's "stupid" celebrations tarnished Argentina's win.

"You can't control sometimes people's emotional decisions. But that was a stupid decision, I think, from Martinez to do that," he added.

Akido obliges in the Man Of The Match Plate

HYDERABAD: Mr. A.C. Muthiah's Akido (Gaurav Singh up) claimed the Man Of The Match Plate, the main event of Saturday's (Dec. 24) races.

The winner is trained by K. Satheesh. Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh saddled three winners on the day.

1. ARISTOCRAT PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): AVANCIA (Deepak Singh) 1, Varenna (Akshay Kumar) 2, Big Boy (B. Nikhil) 3 and Life's Living (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 5.94s. ₹19 (w), 11, 13 and 16 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 53, SHW: 10 and 10, FP: 43, Q: 20, Tanala: 220. Favourite: Avancia. Owner: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: D. Netto.

2. COMMON LAND PLATE (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 2-y-o only (Cat. II): LUCKY ZONE (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Miss Maya (Akshay Kumar) 2, Alexina (Santosh Raj) 3 and Nkalanzinzi (A.A. Vikrant) 4. Not run: Proud Girl. Shd, 3/4 and 7-1/4. 1m, 7.03s. ₹25 (w), 11, 10 and 11 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 30, SHW: 12 and 11, FP: 54, Q: 24, Tanala: 82. Favourite: Miss Maya. Owners: Mr. Champaklal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri rep. Zaveri Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd., Miss. Harsha N. Desai & Miss. Niti N. Desai. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

3. TRADE FAIR PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): CARLISLE (Afroz Khan) 1, Costello (Sonu Kumar) 2, All Time Legend (G. Naresh) 3 and Unsung Hero (Akshay Kumar) 4. 3/4, 1-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 11.69s. ₹58 (w), 10, 30 and 56 (p). SHP: 95, THP: 102, SHW: 25 and 100, FP: 449, Q: 277, Tanala: 4,679. Favourite: Unsung Hero. Owners: Mr. Ayyadevara Srinivas & Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

4. HUSSAIN SAGAR CUP (2,000m), Cl. IV, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): FRANCIS BACON (Kuldeep S) 1, Team Player (Afroz Khan) 2, Exclusive Spark (Mohit Singh) 3 and Hero Of The East (Akshay Kumar) 4. 3-1/4, Nk and Nk. 2m, 9.04s. ₹56 (w), 18, 65 and 15 (p). SHP: 149, THP: 86, SHW: 40 and 101, FP: 1,184, Q: 1,420, Tanala: 5,210. Favourite: Hero Of The East. Owners: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey & Mr. M. Satyanarayana. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

5. MAN OF THE MATCH PLATE (1,600m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): AKIDO (Gaurav Singh) 1, Royal Grace (Afroz Khan) 2, Lifes Song (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Kesariya Balam (G. Naresh) 4. Nk, 3/4 and Nk. 1m, 42.31s. ₹27 (w), 19 and 22 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 59, SHW: 13 and 23, FP: 167, Q: 111, Tanala: 429. Favourite: Akido. Owner: Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

6. WANAPARTHY CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): THANKS (Kuldeep S) 1, General Atlantic (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Crimson Rose (Abhay Singh) 3 and Fly Tothe Stars (Afroz Khan) 4. 3/4, 4-1/2 and Shd. 1m, 25.28s. ₹78 (w), 18, 16 and 19 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 115, SHW: 29 and 15, FP: 338, Q: 112, Tanala: 4,101. Favourite: Pleroma. Owner: Mrs. Lingala Aarti Reddy. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

7. ARISTOCRAT PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): STOIC HERO (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Milton Keynes (Afroz Khan) 2, Inderdhanush (Abhay Singh) 3 and Apex Star (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 1, 5-3/4 and Nk. 1m, 6.26s. ₹23 (w), 11, 14 and 37 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 87, SHW: 15 and 17, FP: 62, Q: 33, Tanala: 566. Favourite: Stoic Hero. Owner: Mr. K. Mallikarjuna Rao. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹24, 726 (10 tkts.) & 30%: 2,077 (51 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 1,029 (41 tkts.), (ii) 7,799 (7 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 666 (55 tkts.), (ii) 1,011 (49 tkts.).

Djokovic hopes for decent reception in Australia

The World No. 5 is pleased he will get the chance to vie for a 10th title in Melbourne and a men's record-equalling 22nd Major crown overall

TENNIS

Agence France-Presse
DUBAI

Good beginning: Djokovic says he has been fortunate to start very strong in Australia and loves competing there. AP

Novak Djokovic is hoping he will receive a warm welcome from the public when he returns to the Australian Open next month, now that the drama surrounding his vaccination status and deportation is officially behind him.

A nine-time champion at Melbourne Park, Djokovic was unable to compete in the opening Grand Slam of the season in 2022 after he was deported from Australia over fears he would incite anti-vax sentiment.

As a result of his deportation, Djokovic was banned from entering Australia again but that decision has been reversed and the World No. 5 is pleased he will get the chance to vie for a 10th title in Melbourne and a men's record-equalling 22nd Major crown overall.

"I always ask the best from myself so let's see. Over the years I've been really fortunate to start very strong in Australia and I love playing there," Djokovic told reporters at the World Tennis League in Dubai on Friday.

"After obviously what happened earlier this year, hopefully I can have a decent reception there and hopefully that can help me play some good tennis."

The 35-year-old Djokovic was unable to compete in two of the four Majors this year as his vaccination stance meant he was also forced to sit out the U.S. Open.

However, he finished his 2022 campaign with a bang, winning titles in Tel Aviv, Astana and the ATP Finals in Turin, as well as reaching the final of the Paris Masters.

He also picked up trophies in Rome and Wimbledon and tallied up a 42-7 win-loss record throughout the season.

The Serb had mentioned in the past he would like to play into his 40s.

Asked if he still felt that way, Djokovic said: "I would like to play as long as I possibly can. I don't have really any number in my head. Things are progressing so far pretty well for me. I can't complain. So as long as I play at this level, as long as I have the fire, I'll keep going."

Swiatek's feat

Meanwhile, World No. 1 Iga Swiatek was happy to see herself land in the fifth spot on *Forbes*' annual list of the world's highest-paid female athletes.

According to *Forbes*, Swiatek has made $14.9 million over the past year, $9.9 million of which came from tournament prize money.

However, the 21-year-old Pole admits she hopes to expand her endorsement portfolio so her earnings aren't just dependent on her performances on court.

"It's not my motivation. The most fun I have on court is when I actually don't think about things like that," assured Swiatek, who won eight titles in 2022, including two Grand Slams.

"I'm pretty happy that my life changed so much that I can compete at the highest level and earn so much money from it because this is also something that is really helping us appreciate the sport we have."

Naomi Osaka and Serena Williams – who have spent significantly less time competing on tour in 2022 – are the top two athletes on the list, with the former reportedly earning $51.1 million and the latter making $41.3 million.

Arteta wants Arsenal to seize title chance as Premier League action resumes on Monday

FOOTBALL

Agence France Presse
LONDON

Mikel Arteta has urged leader Arsenal to carry on from where it left off by winning its first Premier League title since 2004 when English football's top-flight resumes on Monday after the World Cup.

The Gunners were in superb form, with 12 wins from 14 matches, when the league was paused. Arsenal is currently five points clear of champion Manchester City.

All season long, fans and pundits have been debating whether the break will be a help or a hindrance to club's ambition, with Arsenal now without Gabriel Jesus after he was sent home early from the World Cup with a knee problem sustained in Brazil's shock defeat by Cameroon.

Arteta, however, was in buoyant mood ahead of his side's return to Premier League action against London rival West Ham at the Emirates.

Be consistent

"You know, I want the team to play a certain way, and the more consistent we are on that the more we are going to win," he told *Sky Sports*.

"There is excitement, and we should be excited and we should be embracing the opportunity that we have ahead of us."

The fixtures: Monday: Arsenal vs West Ham, Aston Villa vs Liverpool, Brentford vs Tottenham, Crystal Palace vs Fulham, Everton vs Wolves, Leicester vs Newcastle, Southampton vs Brighton;

Tuesday: Chelsea vs Bournemouth, Manchester United vs Nottingham Forest.

Wednesday: Leeds vs Manchester City.

Seniors struggled but Greco Roman, junior grapplers shone in 2022

WRESTLING REVIEW

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Shining star: The rise of Antim Panghal augurs well for the sport in the country. PTI

They dominated the field at the Commonwealth Games as expected, but the tougher World Championships served a reality check for established Indian stars even as the rise of Greco Roman wrestlers and exceptional show by the juniors made it an eventful 2022 for Indian wrestling.

India won 12 medals, including six gold and one silver, at the Birmingham CWG, but only Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat returned with medals from the Worlds in Belgrade.

The Greco Roman style gave three medals performance at the U-23 World Championships through Sajan Bhanwala, Nitesh and Vikas.

The juniors, both boys and girls, emerged serious medal contenders in age group competitions across globe, something which Indian wrestling witnessed for the first time. The rise of Antim Panghal, who became the U-20 World champion in Sofia, is very heartening.

Ravi Dahiya, who won an Olympic silver in Tokyo, began by winning a gold and a silver on the circuit and later added a gold to his kitty at the Asian Championships.

After an expected gold at CWG, crashing out of the Worlds was a big shock not for Ravi himself but his legion of fans.

While Ravi struggled, Aman Sehrawat made a steady progress in Ravi's 57kg category in 2022.

He became U-23 World champion after winning a gold at the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup in Almaty.

Sarita Mor, who won a Worlds bronze in 2021 in women's 57kg, has already decided that she will compete in this Olympic weight category as she will try to qualify for the Paris Games.

Elbow and knee issues kept Tokyo Olympian Anshu Malik silent in 2022 but the woman from Nidani is a true fighter and should be ready for next season in a better way.

Bajrang's struggle

Bajrang Punia, who remains India's best in the 65kg category, struggled with a mental block this year but overcame it before closing the season with a bronze at the Worlds.

His defence has got slightly better but his attacking game still requires a lot of improvement.

Since her medal-less show in Tokyo, Vinesh Phogat has looked a pale shadow of her usual dominating self. After an absence of desired results since 2021, it was good that she won gold at the CWG. She took that confidence to win a bronze at the Worlds.

Vinesh is a fighter and hopefully, she can make a turnaround in 2023 which will be crucial for her, keeping in mind the Paris Games.

PATANJALI®

Switch over to research and evidence-based medicines of Patanjali Ayurveda and Divya Pharmacy

to beat Corona and all types of infectious diseases and eradicating various lifestyle, chronic and genetic diseases to lead a completely natural and healthy life.

Those suffering from chronic lifestyle diseases and those with a compromised immunity face the highest risk of infectious diseases. However, with the help of natural medicines and yoga, you will be able not only to fight these diseases, but eradicating them.

Those who were administered antibiotics and steroids etc. for the management of Corona are increasingly facing problems like diabetes, and diseases of liver, kidney, heart, eye, ear etc. We have managed to resolve these problems with Ayurveda.

Madhugrit and Madhunashini Vati – Pharma companies have fabricated a widespread confusion that diabetics cannot ever become non-diabetic. But with the use of Madhunashini and Madhugrit along with regular yoga practice and Panchkarma, Shatkarma procedures at the **Patanjali Wellness**, we have turned lakhs of type 1 and type 2 diabetic patients into non-diabetics. We have succeeded in bringing down their diabetes (HbA1c levels) to 5.5. This is the biggest achievement in the history of medical science.

BPGrit and Mukta Vati - Another misconception in the medical field is that a patient of high blood pressure can never be completely free from it. After corona, this problem has increased even more among the infected people. We have completely cured crores of high blood pressure patients by making little sattvic changes in their lifestyle, yoga practice and administration of Mukta Vati, BPgrit and gourd juice etc.

Livogrit and Livamrit - Allopathy has no cure for chronic liver diseases such as fatty liver, liver cirrhosis and hepatitis (A, B, C, D). Liver-related problems have increased in patients after corona. We have completely cured lakhs of patients suffering from fatty liver, liver cirrhosis, hepatitis with regular yoga practice and vasti procedure supplemented by medicines Sarvakalp Kwath, Punarnava Ras, Livogrit and Livamrit. We have data of lakhs of such people. For best results, these medicines are taken with Godhan Ark.

Immunogrit Vati, Gold and Powder - Poor immunity and complications arising after corona are cause of many diseases. These medicines are useful in treatment of infections, problems of skin, heart and digestive system as well as fever, allergy, asthma, arthritis and weakness etc.

Thyrogrit and Corighan Vati - Patients taking allopathic medicines for Thyroid related problems become overweight or underweight and suffer from dizziness and depression etc. We have freed people from thyroid and its complications with administration of Kapalbhati, Ujjayi etc. pranayams and yoga exercises supplemented with Thyrogrit and Corighan Vati and coriander water.

Hridayamrit Vati and Cardiogrit - Provides cardiac protection and prevent cardiovascular diseases and complications like heart attack, stroke, pulmonary embolism etc. Taking Arjuna bark and Arjunarishta is best to deal with these diseases.

Renogrit and Trighan Vati - This is a great achievement of the 30 years of research. It is the first research based medicine to cure kidney failure, renal disorders, chronic kidney disease and making the kidney healthy by supporting the renal system. Practicing yoga regularly and taking it with Gokharu completely cures these problems.

Medha Vati, Memory Grit and Neurogrit - To get rid of insomnia, stress, depression, migraine and increasing memory power, take research and evidence based Patanjali Medha Vati, Memory Grit and Neurogrit tablets.

Eyegrit and Eargrit - There is no cure for vision impairment, glaucoma, macular degeneration etc. in allopathic system of medicines. Also, there is no medicine for problems related to hearing and tinnitus. We have cured such patients with yoga practice and medicines Eyegrit, Akshi Tarpan, Eargrit and Karnapuran.

Nutrela Nutrition - The chemical and animal based synthetic nutritional supplements and vitamins available in the market often harm the body instead of providing nutrition because they are not suited to the human nature. Scientists at Patanjali, after many years of research on natural herbs for your natural health, have prepared a complete range of 100% natural and organic plants-based Nutrela Natural vitamins and nutraceuticals

All Patanjali medicines and products are available in Patanjali stores, leading medical stores, Ayurvedic stores and open market. Medical stores not having Patanjali medicines should contact our distribution channel immediately.